



MAKING MEDICARE MAKE SENSE

Answers To Some of The Most Commonly Asked Medicare Questions

Need Relief on Your Prescription Drug Costs? *You May Qualify!*

Q: Is it true that if you qualify for Medicare’s extra-help with payment of your prescription drug out-of-pocket costs, Medicare will pay at least 75% of all costs and most Medicare beneficiaries will get 95% of their costs paid?

A: Yes. Medicare is paying 75% or more of prescription drug costs for people with limited incomes and resources all over the country. All they did was apply! People with limited income and resources may have a hard time paying for their medicines, but help is available. And, if you think you won’t qualify, think again.

One woman with Medicare was struggling to pay for her prescriptions even with a Medicare prescription drug plan and her \$800 Social Security benefit. Monica, a counselor at the local State Health Insurance Information Program (SHIP) in Louisiana talked to her about how to apply. Once she heard that the value of her house, as long as she lived in it, would not be used to determine if she was eligible, she applied and qualified. She was very grateful.

Individuals who make less than \$16,245 and married couples who make less than \$21,855 may qualify to have lower Medicare prescription drug premiums, co pays, and deductibles. If you support other family members who live with you, or have earnings from work, or live in Alaska or Hawaii, this income limit may be higher. In addition, to qualify for the low-income subsidy, resources must be limited to \$12,510 for an individual or \$25,010 for a married couple living together. Resources include things like bank accounts, stocks and bonds, but not your house or car.

Again, if you qualify, Medicare’s low income subsidy, or what we call, “extra help,” can help pay for your out of pocket drug costs, like monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments. Many people qualify and they don’t even know it.

Apply now it’s the only way to see if Medicare will pay 75% or more of your prescription drug costs. Social Security is the federal agency that is handling the application process. Apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), or go to the nearest Social Security office for assistance. All information provided in the application is confidential.

If you have a Medicare question, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048) or visit www.medicare.gov.

Apply today!