Facilitated Enrollment and Enrollment Reconciliation

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Facilitated Enrollment
Medicare will facilitate the enrollment of people who qualify for extra help but have not yet enrolled

- Effective May 1, 2006
- Previously set for June 1, 2006

Ensures people who qualify for extra help
- Can access the drug benefit sooner
Who Is Affected?

- Approximately 1 million people
- Three groups
  - Medicare Savings Programs
    - Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)
    - Specified Low-income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)
    - Qualifying Individual (QI)
  - SSI-only
  - Those who apply and qualify for extra help
How Are Plans Chosen?

- Plans are randomly assigned
  - Not based on person’s prescriptions
  - Not based on pharmacy preference

- Premiums at/below regional benchmark
  - Beneficiaries with full subsidy pay no premium
  - Beneficiaries with partial subsidy pay reduced or no premium
CMS is sending notices to people in Original Medicare Plan

- First 2 weeks of April 2006
- Green paper
- Two versions
  - Full subsidy
  - Partial subsidy
- Include list of plans in that region at/below benchmark premium
Facilitated Enrollment Notices

Medicare Advantage plan members

- Receive notice by April 10, 2006
- Will not receive green notice
Who Will Not Be Enrolled?

- People in employer plans receiving the retiree drug subsidy
  - Will not receive green notice
  - Will not be facilitated into a plan

- People in some State Pharmacy Assistance Programs
  - NY, NJ, CT, PA, and IL
  - Will not be enrolled by CMS at this time
Beneficiary Options

- Stay in assigned plan
  - Do nothing and allow the facilitated enrollment to take effect
- Enroll in another plan of their choice
  - By April 30, 2006
- Decline to be enrolled in a plan
  - Call 1-800-Medicare or
  - Call the plan named in the notice, and
  - Ask to disenroll from plan AND not be enrolled again by Medicare
What to Expect

- Plan will send
  - Enrollment letter
  - Membership materials, including card
  - Toll-free phone number and website for more information

- Person can get transition supply
  - If drug not covered by plan
  - Generally 30 days
  - Work with physician to find a drug that is covered

- Person has the right to ask for
  - An exception (type of coverage determination)
  - Appeal, if exception not granted by plan
Switching Plans

- Dual eligibles and MSPs
  - Have continuous Special Enrollment Period
  - Can switch plans once/month
Switching Plans (cont’d)

- Others CMS facilitates into a plan May 1
  - Includes
    - Medicare and SSI-only
    - People who apply and qualify for extra help
  - Can change until May 15, 2006, and
  - Have Special Enrollment Period
    - Can switch plans once before end of 2006
Enrolling for Plan Year 2007

- Annual Coordinated Election Period
  - November 15 – December 31, 2006
- All people with Medicare
  - Can join or choose new plan
  - Effective January 1, 2007
- Will be an Annual Coordinated Election Period each year
Enrollment Reconciliation

Special Notice To Confirm Medicare Plan Choice
Enrollment Reconciliation

- A systems logic error early in implementation
  - Caused some plans not to be notified that a plan member had enrolled in a different plan
- Plans sent letters on CMS letterhead
  - To people affected by this error
  - Nationwide
- Everyone affected
  - Will continue to have uninterrupted access to Medicare drug coverage
Enrollment Reconciliation

- Purpose of enrollment reconciliation
  - Ensure that people are enrolled in the plan they want
- Letter asks recipients to confirm choice of Medicare drug plan
  - If want to stay in Medicare plan of record, they do not have to do anything
If want to stay in initial plan

- Call the plan and enroll in that plan
  - Will be automatically disenrolled from the current plan once this enrollment is processed

- Plans have until April 15 to submit enrollment transactions to CMS
  - Enrollments received by April 15 will be retroactive to date person first enrolled in a Part D plan
  - Enrollments received April 16 - April 30 will be effective May 1, 2006
Resources

- **Facilitated Enrollment**
  - Fact sheet
  - Notice: Full Subsidy Version
  - Notice: Partial Subsidy Version

- **Enrollment Reconciliation**
  - Fact sheet
  - Model notices
For More Information

- Visit www.cms.hhs.gov
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE
- Call State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)
  - Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for SHIP telephone number
  - TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048
Thank You for Your Attention!

A recording of this training will be available after April 12

- http://media.cms.hhs.gov/cms/partner04072006.wma