

FACILITY FACT SHEET

CMS recognizes the special arrangements through which nursing facility residents receive their prescription drugs. For Medicare beneficiaries residing in a nursing facility who get their prescription drugs through the facility's contracted long term pharmacy and who qualify for a \$600 credit, there are three Medicare-approved prescription drug cards specially designed to help cover out-of-pocket prescription drug costs. These cards will apply the \$600 toward the cost of drugs provided through the pharmacy that serves the qualified beneficiary in the nursing facility.

Note: The \$600 credit cannot be used during a Medicare Part A stay, and the program is voluntary.

The three Medicare-approved long-term care cards, and their phone numbers are listed below:

- > LTC Card, offered by ACS State Healthcare, LLC and the Long-Term Care Pharmacy Alliance, 1-866-490-1863
- > Community Care Rx, offered by Computer Sciences Corporation, 1-877-646-5307
- > PBM Plus Senior Care, PBM Plus, Inc., 1-800-676-8399

Enrolling in a Medicare-approved drug card and using the \$600 credit is easy:

- > A resident in a nursing facility who has Medicare (or his/her authorized representative) simply needs to know:
 - o Do I have Medicaid outpatient prescription drug coverage?
 - o What is my current monthly income?
 - o What other health insurance do I have?
 - o What pharmacy provides my prescription drugs while I am in the nursing facility?
- > A beneficiary or his/her authorized representative sends the signed enrollment form with this information to the card sponsor.
- > The sponsor will verify the information with Medicare and provide the beneficiary a letter indicating whether or not he/she qualifies for the \$600 credit. If the beneficiary does qualify, Medicare will waive his/her enrollment fee.
- > A beneficiary can join any time this year and get the full \$600. That beneficiary will also get another \$600 in 2005. If there is a balance at the end of 2004 or 2005, it will roll over to the next year.
- > The card program and the participating pharmacy will know when to apply the \$600 credit. The \$600 credit can't be used while Medicare Part A is paying for the resident's stay in the nursing facility.
- > Long-term care card sponsors may, but are not required to offer discounts on prescription drugs. One of the cards has negotiated discounts with all of the long-term care pharmacies in its network when the \$600 credit is applied to the claim.
- > A resident or his/her authorized representative can get additional information about the Medicare-approved long-term care cards by calling each card's toll free number. Another important source of information is 8-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (And Answers)

Q. Can all people who live in nursing facilities get a Medicare-approved drug discount card and the \$600 credit?

A. You can get a Medicare-approved drug discount card if:

- You have Medicare Part A and/or Part B, and
- You don't have outpatient prescription drug benefits through Medicaid.

You also may be able to get the \$600 credit to help pay for your prescriptions if:

- You don't have other health insurance with any outpatient prescription drug coverage (except a Medicare Advantage plan or a Medigap policy), and
- Your monthly income in 2004 is no more than \$1,048* if you are single, or no more than \$1,406* if you are married (this includes your income and your spouse's income.) Note: If your state helps pay your Medicare Part A or Part B premiums you may still qualify even if your income is above these amounts. *Income limits are different in Alaska and Hawaii.

Q. How do I use the \$600 credit from Medicare to help pay for prescriptions?

A. If you are approved for the \$600 credit from Medicare to help pay for your prescriptions, the amount you are approved for will be applied to your discount card. Each time you use your discount, you will pay a 5% or 10% coinsurance amount on the price of your prescription. The pharmacy will deduct the price of your prescriptions from your discount card. Whether you pay a 5% or 10% coinsurance depends on your annual income when you applied for the \$600 credit and the Medicare-approved drug discount card.

Q. Can I get the \$600 credit without getting a Medicare-approved drug discount card?

A. No. You must enroll in a Medicare-approved drug discount card program to get the \$600 credit.

Q. Can I choose whichever Medicare-approved drug discount card I want?

A. Yes. You can choose any Medicare-approved drug discount card offered in your area, including the three special cards for people living in nursing facilities. If you are eligible for the \$600 credit, you should consider one of the special cards for people living in nursing facilities. You can only have one Medicare-approved drug discount card at a time.

Q. Do I have to use the pharmacy that my nursing facility uses?

A. Depending on where your nursing facility is located, there may be rules that offer you a choice between a pharmacy that specializes in serving people living in nursing facilities and a pharmacy that serves the community. Check with your nursing facility to find out where you get your medicines. Keep in mind when choosing a pharmacy that Medicare makes sure that the prescriptions you get in your facility meet high quality

standards.

If you get your medicines from a pharmacy that is set up by your nursing facility to serve the people living in your facility, and you are eligible for the \$600 credit, you should consider one of the special cards for people living in nursing facilities. These special cards will use the \$600 credit to help pay for your medicines. The \$600 credit can't be used while in a Medicare Part A stay.

If you get your medicines from a community pharmacy, you can consider one of the special cards for people living in nursing facilities that include your community pharmacy in their pharmacy networks, or you may want to consider other Medicare-approved drug discount cards that include your community pharmacy in their pharmacy networks.

Q. Why are there three special drug discount cards for people who live in nursing facilities?

A. Many people who live in nursing facilities get the prescriptions from a pharmacy that specializes in serving people in nursing facilities. To make sure the Medicare-approved drug discount card works best for people with Medicare in nursing facilities, Medicare created a special type of card to help people who live in nursing facilities who are eligible for the \$600 credit with the cost of their prescriptions.

Q. Does the pharmacy that provides my drugs contract with one of the special Medicare-approved drug discount cards that serve Medicare nursing facility residents?

A. Long-term care pharmacies can contract with one or more of the specially endorsed Medicare long-term care cards. To find out if the pharmacy in your facility works with one of these cards, ask the pharmacy or contact the drug card's customer service staff.

Q. What if I have a Medicare-approved drug discount card already, but it isn't one of the three cards for people living in nursing facilities?

A. If you move into a nursing facility, and you qualify for the \$600 credit and get drugs through the nursing facility's contracted pharmacy, you may need to switch to one of the three special cards to use your \$600 credit. Check with the pharmacy that provides your prescriptions in the nursing facility to see which Medicare-approved drug card they work with. Note: You may change cards when you enter or leave a nursing facility.

Q. For which drugs can the \$600 be applied?

A. You can use the \$600 credit toward most drugs that are filled with a prescription and are approved by the FDA. However, the credit cannot be used for certain drugs, such as over-the-counter drugs, weight-related, fertility, and cosmetic drugs, drugs for symptomatic relief of cough or colds, vitamins (except prenatal), barbiturates, benzodiazepines, and certain drugs that Medicare already covers for you under Part B. The card sponsor and your pharmacy will know when to apply the \$600 credit.

Q. What if I have one of the special drug discount cards and my nursing facility pharmacy won't accept it?

A. Call the card sponsor to complain. If the card sponsor doesn't resolve your complaint, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227.) TTD users should call 1-877-486-2048.