

BELLEVUE DRUG CO. NEWS

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MEDICARE RX DATES TO REMEMBER

October, 2005 Medicare & You Handbook is mailed.
11/15/05–5/15/06 Enrollment Period for Medicare Drug Plan.
12/31/05 Enroll by this date & coverage begins 1/1/06
5/15/06 Deadline to join Medicare Rx Plan.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS

Medicare & You 2006 Handbook

(Handbook is mailed October, 2006)

www.medicare.gov

1-800-MEDICARE (800) 633-4227

Social Security Administration

1-800-772-1213

www.socialsecurity.gov

Medicare's Prescription Drug Plan & You.

As many people are already aware, Medicare Beneficiaries are being urged to enroll in an approved Medicare Prescription Drug Plan for 2006. The Medicare Modernization Act is quite historic for us and will affect many people—Medicare Beneficiaries, Caregivers, Family Members and Businesses, such as our own—Bellevue Drug!

We have done some research and would like to pass on some very important information for you and your family members. But, please be sure you follow the guidelines outlined by Medicare, so that you will receive the most benefit from the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan that is available to you.

Some Important Facts:

- All Medicare Beneficiaries can CHOOSE & ENROLL in a Medicare Prescription Plan.
- By joining prior to 5/15/06, you will optimize on the lowest premium being offered by Medicare at this time.
- There will be extra help in paying for the costs of prescriptions if you have low-income and limited resources.
- Medicare Prescription Drug Plans will work with all types of Medicare Health Plans.
- If you already have Drug Coverage, that insurer will send you

detailed information, as to whether your current coverage is at least as good as Medicare Drug Coverage.

- Medicare Drug Coverage Premiums will vary depending upon the level of coverage you choose.
- Medicare Drug Plans will cover both Brand Name and Generic drugs.
- If you enroll by 12/31/05, your Medicare Drug Coverage will be effective 1/1/06. Enrollment after 12/31/05: you will become effective the first of the month following the month you enroll.

General Costs for Medicare Drug Coverage

Monthly Premium (2006):

\$37.00 [this is a general cost and could change yearly.]

Deductible (2006):

\$250.00

Co-Insurance: You pay a share; Medicare pays a share—up to \$2,250.00.

Out of Pocket Expense:

\$3,600.00 [once you have reached your out of pocket expense, you then pay only 5% of your drug costs and Medicare pays 95% for the remainder of the calendar year.]

Limited or Low Income:

If you qualify for extra help

paying for Medicare, your prescription drug costs should get continuous coverage with a smaller Out of Pocket cost.

Timely Enrollment:

Medicare recipients that do not enroll by the initial enrollment deadline—5/15/06, will pay higher premiums.

As we learn more about the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, we will continue to make that information available to you. To view the most recent information available to the public, go to the Medicare website at: www.medicare.gov

“THE MISSION OF BELLEVUE DRUG IS TO BE CONTINUALLY PROGRESSIVE AND ATTENTIVE TO INDIVIDUAL PATIENT NEEDS.”

Bellevue Drug Pharmacists Receive Continuing Education Credits.

We are pleased to announce that our Pharmacists have collectively received about 40 Continuing Education Credits so far this year. Our pharmacists have an on-going commitment to their professional education and always take the time to acquire their Continuing Ed Credits throughout the year. Joseph Aumenta, R.Ph., William Olivo, R.Ph. and Nicholas Varga, R.Ph. have attended the N.J. Drug Utilization Review Board’s Law Seminar in May; and Bill Olivo attended a week-long prescrip-

tion compounding class in Houston, Texas in April. Bill attended the Professional Compounding Centers of America (PCCA) primary training session. Now all of Bellevue Drug’s pharmacists are *compounding pharmacists*. For information about how compounded medications may help you and your family, please ask one of our pharmacists.

Bellevue Drug and Staff will continue to search for ways to improve our quality of service and products.

Reminders:

- Please present your Prescription Insurance Card each time you get a prescription filled.
- If you have any change in your health, i.e. allergies to medications, please advise our staff.
- Please provide our staff with new addresses or telephone numbers for our records.
- Going on vacation? Be sure you order your maintenance drugs early.

www.vargasbellevuedrug.com

Bellevue Drug is excited to announce that our new website is up and running. Please note our new website address: www.vargasbellevuedrug.com.

We hope you will find our website to be an effective resource. Take a few minutes to view our *Current*

Events Page, where you will find valuable, money-saving coupons to print and use in our pharmacy.

If you have any questions or problems in navigating our site, use our *Contact Us* page or call us personally. Your input is helpful to us, so we can be sure we are meeting our customers’ needs.

Disease State Management & Your Pharmacy.

Disease state management is the pharmacologic management of a disease, such as **asthma** or **diabetes**, to teach patients about their medications, how to use them and the importance of using them as prescribed.

The pharmacist forms a partnership with the physician and patient and the three become a team in controlling the dis-

ease, thereby minimizing acute attacks, enabling better patient outcomes and reducing emergency room visits. By doing this the pharmacist contributes to improving the control over the disease, allowing patients to live full, active and productive lives to the highest standards of normal living.

Our pharmacists here at

Bellevue Drug welcome the opportunity to discuss your medication concerns and counsel you and your family members on proper medication usage. **Patient counseling** is a service we take very seriously, therefore, any question you may have about your medication should be discussed with our pharmacists.

Quick & Easy Phone System Use:

For Patients -

- Rx Refills: Press “6” when prompted to go the Refill Mailbox. Press “2” to speak to our staff.
- Supply Orders: Press “3” or dial ext. 209 to reach Carla Garrison.

For Physicians -

- Dictate Prescription into R.Ph. Mailbox: Press “1”, then follow additional prompts.
- To Reach a Pharmacist: Press “2”.