

# Bellevue Drug Co. News

## Understanding Your Medicines

Did you know that taking your medications properly is one of the best ways to avoid future health care costs? Each year, thousands of people end up in the hospital, fail to get better, and spend more money than they have to simply because they do not take their medication properly.

Pharmacists can educate you about your medications, both prescription and nonprescription. The American Pharmacists Association, the

national professional society of pharmacists, says that every person should be able to answer these questions before taking any new medication.

1. What is the name of the medication and what is it supposed to do?
2. When and how do I take it?
3. How long should I take it?
4. Does this medication contain anything that can cause an allergic reaction?
5. Should I avoid alcohol, any other medicines, foods, and/or activities?
6. Should I expect any side

effects?

7. What if I forget to take my medication?
8. Is it safe to become pregnant or to breast-feed while taking this medication?
9. Is there a generic version of the medication that my doctor has prescribed?
10. How should I store my medications?

Bellevue Drug's pharmacists, Joe Aumenta, Bill Olivo and Nick Varga can answer these and other questions you have about your medication therapy. Ask your pharmacist today.

### MEDICARE

#### PART D & BDC

- We are here to help you with questions regarding the Part D Benefit.
- We are a Participating Pharmacy in most Part D Plans .
- A list of Part D Plans that BDC will be participating in for 2006 will be posted soon.

### NJ PAAD UPDATE:

We have been told by PAAD that a letter is being mailed to all PAAD recipients on Friday, October 21st. The letter will outline Medicare Part D Plans specific to the medications currently being used by the PAAD beneficiary and the drug formulary of each Part D Plan. We have confirmed with PAAD that once enrolled in Part D, along with your PAAD, you will continue to pay \$5 per prescription.

## MEDICARE PART D & N.J. PAAD

We have spoken to many PAAD beneficiaries and some are questioning how the Part D Benefit will affect them.

During the summer many PAAD members received an application from Social Security Admin (SSA) to determine whether a PAAD member may be eligible for extra help with the Part D Premium. This application

should have been completed and returned to SSA for processing. NJ PAAD and SSA will share information about a Medicare Beneficiary to Coordinate Benefits. In most cases, we believe that if a PAAD member is approved for extra help, they *may* continue to pay only \$5.00 per prescription, *however*, enrollment in

Part D is required.

If you have PAAD and you did not receive or complete an application for "extra help" you should contact SSA at 1-800-772-1213. You should also find answers to your questions in your Medicare & You 2006 Handbook. Still have questions? Call us at Bellevue, we are here to help: (609) 561-0825, ext. 208.

Bellevue Drug Co.  
254 Bellevue Ave.  
Hammonton, NJ  
08037  
(609) 561-0825

Store Hours:  
Mon-Fri: 9am-9pm  
Saturday: 9am-6pm  
Sun: 9am-12 Noon

### What is JCAHO?

To find out more about the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, go to their website at: [www.jcaho.org](http://www.jcaho.org). You can find a list of accredited businesses and view their survey results.

*“Medicare Beneficiaries must be extra cautious and vigilant . . . and protect their personal information . . .”*

Bellevue Drug  
Serving your  
community  
since 1950

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### Bellevue Drug Receives JCAHO Accreditation On Tri-Annual Survey—July 18th and 19th, 2005.

This past summer a representative from the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, (JCAHO), spent two days at Bellevue Drug evaluating our Patient Safety Standards and Policy and Procedure that relate to the provision of Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies. JCAHO representatives conduct on-site reviews of all accredited organizations to review business practices and assess an

organization’s compliance with set standards.

The rigorous evaluation process is essential in order to meet the high standards required by the Joint Commission. The Joint Commission sets the standards by which health care quality is measured in America and around the world. Each year JCAHO establishes National Patient Safety Goals for all types of healthcare organizations.

As an accredited business for Home Medical Equipment, Bellevue Drug must be compliant with all standards set by JCAHO. We are pleased to announce that we have received accreditation once again from JCAHO.

Bellevue Drug will continue to strive for excellence not only in business practices, but customer service, quality products and pharmaceutical services for our community.

### Medicare Part D—Beware the Scams.

It certainly doesn’t take long for scam artists to float to the surface. But recently, we have read that Medicare Beneficiaries must be extra cautious and vigilant during the enrollment period for the Part D Benefit.

You should know that it is illegal for marketers of Medicare drug plans to visit your home—unless you invite them in advance. It is illegal for them to send unsolicited emails, as well. Medicare

Drug Plan marketers may call you on the phone—BUT they are not permitted to sign you up during those calls. Therefore, it is very important to protect your private information. Here is a basic list of caveats:

- Check the list of Medicare-approved drug plans by calling Medicare at 1-800-633-4227.
- Make sure the plan is licensed. Call our N.J.

State Department of Health Insurance at 1-800-792-8820 or N.J. Dept. of Banking & Insurance at 1-609-292-5360.

- Protect your personal information, such as Social Security number or bank account numbers. Legitimate plans may ask for this information, but not until you actually enroll and/or arrange for automatic payment.