

Medicare and You

Caring For An Aging Loved One? Get The Facts About Medicare Part D Now

(NAPSA)—Did you know that one in five adults is the designated caregiver for an aging or disabled loved one who can't manage alone? More than 50 million individuals are selflessly engaged in providing 80 percent of all homecare services in America. In addition to assisting with activities of daily living, family caregivers are very influential providers of health care information for their care recipients.

If you are caring for someone who is eligible for Medicare or if you are among the millions of family caregivers who are eligible themselves, it is important that you learn as much as you can about the new Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program. Medicare Part D is the most significant expansion in the history of the federal health program designed for the elderly and disabled.

The National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA) was founded to support, educate, empower, and advocate for America's millions of family caregivers. In keeping with its mission, NFCA urges you to learn more about Medicare Part D during open enrollment November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006. As in many health plans, open enrollment is a

Caring Every Day

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great time to explore, compare, and make informed choices. It is also a time during which a one-time cost-saving incentive is offered for early enrollees. Of particular interest to family caregivers, this saving can impact the escalating costs and use of prescription drugs over the lifetime of a care recipient.

Get the facts. Plan ahead. A detailed explanation of the program is offered by the federal government through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: 1-800-MEDICARE and www.medicare.gov. Although very comprehensive, it can also be very complex.

Through the NFCA Web site, www.thefamilycaregiver.org, family caregivers can link to other sources of information that are easier to comprehend—some with links specifically designed for family caregivers. For more information about the benefits of NFCA membership or to support its non-profit programs, please visit the organization online.