TIMELINE OF MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN EVENTS AND DEADLINES

June 2005
CMS sends letters to dual beneficiaries notifying them that their medications will soon be covered under Medicare, not Medicaid. CMS also sends letters to low-income beneficiaries encouraging them to apply for extra help through the Social Security Administration.

October 2005
CMS mails *Medicare & You 2006*, which includes some details of prescription drug plans. Dual beneficiaries receive automatic plan assignments with letters explaining how they may change plans if they choose.

Nov. 15, 2005
Enrollment for 2006 benefits begins.

Dec. 31, 2005
Last day to sign up for Medicare Discount Card program. Last day dual beneficiaries can get drugs through Medicaid.

Jan. 1, 2006
New prescription drug benefit begins for all who signed up prior to this date.

February 2006
CMS will identify all beneficiaries not signed up for Medicare Advantage or a Medicare prescription drug plan and mail a reminder of the May 15 deadline.

May 15, 2006
Last day of open enrollment for Medicare prescription plans.

May 16, 2006 to Nov. 14, 2006
Enrollment for prescription drug coverage will be closed except to those who have become newly eligible for Medicare during this period or are switching to a Medicare plan from another creditable plan.

Nov. 15, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2006
Open enrollment period for Medicare prescription drug plans or Medicare Advantage plans to start Jan. 1, 2007. Those who were previously eligible will pay an increased monthly premium (1-percent penalty for every eligible month prior to enrollment).

JUNE 2005 | JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER | JANUARY 2006 | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER | JANUARY 2007

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