

Important Information for Those with Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act includes some important benefits for Medicare recipients but seniors should be on guard against scam artists who may use this as an opportunity to contact you requesting personal information. Please follow all the usual precautions to avoid becoming a fraud victim.

Under the new law, those who have Medicare prescription coverage and aren't receiving Medicare Extra Help will receive a one-time \$250 rebate check after reaching the coverage cap (also known as the "doughnut hole"). The coverage gap occurs when you and your plan have spent a certain amount for covered drugs. At that point, you have to pay all costs out-of-pocket until reaching another limit when the plan begins paying again. The explanation of benefits notice you receive from your drug plan will tell you how much you've spent on covered drugs and whether you have entered the coverage gap.



The rebate check will be sent to you **automatically** when you reach the coverage gap. Checks began going out in early June 2010. About every 45 days, checks will be sent to those who have become eligible since the last mailing.

Please note that you do not have to do anything to receive this rebate. **There are no forms to be filled out, no one will call you and you will not need to give your personal information to anyone.** If you are approached by someone who offers to help with paperwork or who requests personal information like your Medicare, Social Security or bank account numbers, please call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to report the fraud attempt. **Do not give personal information to anyone, even if he/she claims to be from Medicare.**

The rebate is tax-free and does not have to be claimed as income.

Coming in 2011 – If you reach the coverage gap in 2011, you will receive a 50 percent discount on your brand name prescription drugs at the time you buy them, unless you are already receiving Medicare Extra Help.