



How do my Medicaid and Medicare drug coverage (Part D) work together?

If you have Medicare and Medicaid you must get your prescriptions from a Medicare private drug plan (Medicare Part D). Medicaid will continue to help pay your other Medicare health costs, including your Medicare Parts A and B deductible and coinsurance. You will also get Extra Help—federal assistance that helps pay for your Medicare drug costs.

When you become eligible for Medicaid, you can choose a Medicare private drug plan or Medicare will automatically enroll you in one with your drug coverage starting the month that you became eligible for Medicaid (retroactive coverage). If you are not satisfied, you can change your drug plan once a month. Make sure the drug plan you are enrolled in:

- **covers the drugs you need**
- **works at the pharmacies you use regularly**
- **has a monthly premium that Extra Help will pay in full or you will have to pay the difference**

Use your Medicare prescription drug plan to get your prescriptions filled. Depending on your income, in 2008 you will pay either \$1.05 for generics and \$3.10 for brand-name drugs or \$2.25 for generics and \$5.60 for brand-name drugs (or the cost of the drug if it is less).

New York Medicaid will help pay some of your drug costs and provide you with additional coverage in the following ways:

- It will only pay immediately for drugs that are **excluded from Medicare coverage by law** and are **on the Medicaid formulary**, such as certain anti-anxiety drugs (barbiturates and benzodiazepines);
- Medicaid may pay for certain drugs **if your Medicare drug plan will not cover them**: antidepressants, antiretrovirals for the treatment of HIV/AIDS, and antirejection drugs used in the treatment of tissue and organ transplants, and atypical antipsychotics. **If your Part D plan will not cover a drug for you in one of these categories, ask your pharmacist if Medicaid will.**

Get information about Medicare private drug plans in your area and enroll in a plan by:

- going to www.medicare.gov;
- calling 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227); or
- calling the Medicare Rights Center hotline at 800-333-4114.

Note: If you will lose your retiree or union coverage by enrolling in a Medicare private drug plan, you do not have to take Medicare drug coverage in New York. Call your local Medicaid office or the Medicare Rights Center hotline to find out what to do if you may lose your retiree/union coverage.