



MARYLAND PHARMACY PROGRAM

Medicaid - Pharmacy Assistance – Pharmacy Discount

No. 21A
Thursday, December 15, 2005

ADVISORY

*In an effort to give timely notice to the pharmacy community concerning important pharmacy topics, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) **Maryland Pharmacy Program (MPP)** has developed the **Maryland Pharmacy Program Advisory**. To expedite information timely to the pharmacy and prescriber communities, an email network has been established which incorporates the email lists of the Maryland Pharmacists Association, EPIC, CARE, Long Term Care Consultants, headquarters of all chain drugstores and prescriber associations and organizations. It is our hope that the information is disseminated to all interested parties. If you have not received this email through any of the previously noted parties or via DHMH, please contact the MPP representative at 410-767-1455.*

This Advisory is directed to physicians.

Temporary Suspension of Early Refill Edits for Medicare Recipients

Maryland Medicaid and the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance & Discount Programs

Medicare Part D is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2006 and will result in a major change for physicians and Medicare recipients in the way most prescriptions will be provided. Medicare eligible recipients will be covered by fifteen different basic prescription drug plans. The formularies may vary. To ensure that recipients in the Maryland Pharmacy Program (MPP) are able to receive adequate supplies of needed medications during this transition, the Department is suspending the normal restrictions on early refills for recipients with Medicare. Prescriptions for Medicare beneficiaries in the MPP that are filled with dates of service between Dec. 21, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2005 will automatically adjudicate and will not deny because of early refill edits. The Pharmacy Point-of-Sale system will message only, informing pharmacists that these prescriptions are early refills. Pharmacists are advised to use their judgment in helping recipients obtain adequate supplies of critical medications to get them safely through the transition period and in preventing misuse.