



Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs
John O. Pastore Center
Hazard Building
74 West Road
Cranston, RI 02920

RHODE ISLAND SENIOR BEAT

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MEDICARE PART D WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD ACROSS THE STATE

Q. I enrolled in Medicare Part B last year when I reached my 65th birthday. I also purchased a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (Medicare Part D) when I enrolled in Medicare Part B. I would to take a look at all my medications again to see if I can get better Part D coverage for comparable cost. If I find a better plan, when can I switch my enrollment?

A. If you elect to make a change in your Medicare Part D plan, you can do it during the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP). The AEP runs from November 15 through December 31.

The Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs (DEA) is sponsoring a series of workshops so that Medicare beneficiaries can look at their Part D plan options for the coming year. During the AEP, Medicare beneficiaries can join a Part D insurance plan. Medicare beneficiaries can also change to a different Part D plan. The effective date of these changes will be January 1, 2010. PLEASE NOTE: If a beneficiary does not want to change their Part D coverage, the beneficiary does not have to take any action.

Persons entitled to Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and/or persons enrolled in Part B (Medical Insurance) are eligible to participate in a Medicare prescription drug insurance plan.

Beginning January 1, 2006, Medicare prescription drug plans became available to 41 million Medicare beneficiaries. Rhode Island has approximately 176,000 Medicare beneficiaries.

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The prescription drug insurance program is part of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 and is one of the most significant changes in Medicare since its inception in 1965.

“We are very happy to work with our other community partners to make sure that Medicare beneficiaries get the information that they need to make informed choices,” declared Corinne Calise Russo, DEA Director.

“Prescription drug costs are one of the main concerns for seniors. A Medicare beneficiary can save a significant amount of money on their prescription drug costs each year by joining a Medicare Part D program,” she observed.

Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) volunteers and staff from the community agencies will be available on site to help Medicare beneficiaries with their Part D plan choices in a one-on-one setting.

Medicare Part D workshops are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, November 16: Woonsocket Senior Center, 84 Social Street (1:00 to 5:00 p.m.).
- Wednesday, November 18: Scituate Senior Center, 1315 Chopmist Hill Road (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. CALL 349-5760, EXT. 1952.**
- Saturday, December 5: United Way/211, 50 Valley Street, Providence (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). Flu shots will be given from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, December 7: Leon Mathieu Senior Center, 420 Main Street, Pawtucket (8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.). **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Call 728-7582.**
- Thursday, December 10: Newport Child and Family Services, 31 John Clarke Road, Middletown (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.).

For additional information, call DEA at 462-3000. TTY users should use 462-0740. The workshop schedule will also be posted on the DEA web site at www.dea.state.ri.us. Beneficiaries may also call THE POINT at 462-4444. TTY users should call 462-4445. The workshop schedule will also be posted on THE POINT web site at www.ThePointRI.org.

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Questions for *Rhode Island Senior Beat* may be mailed to the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs, John O. Pastore Center, 74 West Road-2nd floor, Cranston, RI 02920. Questions can also be e-mailed to lgrimaldi@dea.ri.gov. For a confidential discussion about questions, issues or problems regarding growing older, call DEA at 462-3000. TTY users should call 462-0740. Seniors, families, and caregivers can also call THE POINT Resource Center at 462-4444. The TTY number for THE POINT is 462-4445.

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