



September 2005

Pharmacy Bulletin
05-007

ATTENTION EQUALITYCARE PHARMACY PROVIDERS

Effective on or about October 15, 2005, an electronic message will be created informing pharmacy providers of their Medicaid/Medicare Dual Eligible (duals) patients. These patients will begin receiving their prescription drug benefits through Medicare Part D effective **January 1, 2006**. The message you will receive will state the following:

“Attention: Effective 01/01/06, member may be eligible through Medicare Part D.”

When you see this message, please remind the patient that they may be eligible for Medicare Part D, and thus they will no longer be receiving their prescription drugs through Medicaid after December 31, 2005. If they are assigned to a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP), they will soon receive information from Medicare about their PDP.

Also included in this bulletin are some important highlights that the EqualityCare (Medicaid) Pharmacy Services wants you to be aware of in regard to changes due to Medicare Part D:

1. The EqualityCare Pharmacy Services will be covering only those drugs that are exempt from coverage by Medicare Part D prescription drug plans. These drugs include **benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and those Over-the-Counter products** listed as covered products in the EqualityCare Provider manual.
2. Nursing Home patients will only receive coverage of benzodiazepines and barbiturates through EqualityCare starting January 1, 2006. **Over-the-Counter products are required to be covered by the nursing home for these patients.**

More information will be sent in regard to upcoming changes related to Medicare Part D. If you have any questions not addressed by EqualityCare bulletins or Medicare, please contact ACS at 1-800-251-1268.

These reminders should help lessen some of the confusion that may occur for both pharmacy staff and patients as to who may lose Medicaid Prescription Drug benefits.

If your patient feels that this message was received in error, please direct them to ACS at 1-800-251-1269 for further research.