

MEDICARE RESOURCES

Social Security Administration (SSA) – www.ssa.gov

National Number 1-800-772-1213 or Eureka Office 1-866-828-1991 (M-F, 9:00-4:00) or Del Norte Office 1-855-727-3600.

Information on Medicare eligibility and enrollment, Extra Help subsidy programs, Social Security benefits, change of address for Medicare or Social Security and Medicare Card replacement.

Medicare Official Government Website: www.medicare.gov

Toll free number: 1-800-633-4227 (1-800-MEDICARE)

Information on Medicare, Medigap policies, Medicare Advantage plan options, prescription drug assistance programs and other Medicare-related issues.

California Health Advocates: www.cahealthadvocates.org

Provides information and resources on Medicare.

CA Dept. of Aging: www.aging.ca.gov

Telephone number: 1-916-419-7500. The California Department of Aging (CDA) administers programs that serve older adults, adults with disabilities, family caregivers, and residents in long-term care facilities throughout the State.

CA Dept. of Insurance: www.insurance.ca.gov/0150-seniors/index.cfm

Senior consumer information, including sample rates for Medicare Supplement Plans, and which companies sell which type of policies.

SMP Resource website: www.smpresource.org

Toll free number: 1-800-434-0222

Consumer information about preventing Medicare Fraud and Abuse. Report suspected Medicare fraud, waste and abuse.

Area 1 Agency on Aging: www.a1aa.org

Telephone number: 707-442-3763

Senior resources for the local community.

Disability Benefits 101: www.disabilitybenefits101.org

Working with disabilities in CA – gives you tools and information on health coverage, benefits, and employment. You can plan ahead and learn how work and benefits go together.

CA Statewide Automated Welfare Services: www.benefitscal.com

Apply online for benefits with food stamps, cash assistance or medical.

Department of Health and Human Services – Social Services

Humboldt: 1-877-410-8809

Del Norte: 707-464-3191

Other Resources for Prescription Drug costs

Needy Meds: www.needymeds.org

Find help with the cost of prescription medicine.

Extra Help: <https://www.ssa.gov/medicare/part-d-extra-help>

The low-income subsidy “Extra Help” program can help you lower your Medicare Part D prescription drug cost.

Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs)

Some pharmaceutical companies offer programs that provide free or low-cost drugs to qualified individuals.

Charity Care Program

Ask the hospital about charity care to help lower your drug costs.

CA Prescription Drug Discount

Get drugs at Medi-Cal reimbursement rates plus \$0.15 processing fee at Medi-Cal participant pharmacies.

340-B Drug Discount Program

Discounted prescription drugs for Open Door Community Centers patients.

Considerations for your Medicare Part D plan:

- Annual plan reviews: review your options for potential cost saving during Medicare Open Enrollment (Oct 15-Dec 7)
- Generic vs. Brand-name medications: Speak to your doctor about changing to a generic drug.
- Mail Order Pharmacy: Check your health plan for mail order pharmacy options that may cost less.
- Tiering Exception: Formally request your health plan to place a drug on a lower tier, lowering the cost of the drug.
- Samples: Speak to your doctor about getting samples if you are temporarily having trouble obtaining drugs.

- Speak to your pharmacist about a case-specific waiver.
- Pharmacy Comparisons: Compare your prescription prices at different pharmacies. Although in-network pharmacies should have lower prices, there may be occasions when pharmacies outside the network have lower prices.