



# Guide to Choosing a Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card

**This official government booklet will help you answer these questions:**

- What are these cards?
- Who can get a card?
- How do they work?
- How do I choose the best card for me?





# Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Cards

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**Note:** The information in this booklet was correct when it was printed. Changes may occur after printing. For the most up-to-date information, look at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web. Select “Publications.” Or, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). A Customer Service Representative can tell you if the information has been updated. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

*Guide to Choosing a Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card* isn't a legal document. The official Medicare program provisions are contained in the relevant laws, regulations, and rulings.

# Introduction



## Choices to Save on Prescription Drugs

The cost of paying for prescription drugs has been increasing every year, especially for people with Medicare, like you. Medicare pays for some prescriptions, like certain cancer drugs, but Medicare doesn't cover everything. Many people with Medicare have prescription drug coverage through other insurance like an employer group health plan, a [Medicare Managed Care plan](#), or a [Medigap policy](#). Even with this coverage, you may still have trouble paying for your prescriptions.

Another way people with Medicare get help paying for their prescriptions is by using drug discount cards like a card from a pharmacy or company that makes drugs. These cards can help you get prescriptions at lower costs. Now you have another choice to help you save money on your prescriptions. Medicare is contracting with private companies to offer new, voluntary discount cards.

## Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card

If you have Medicare and **don't** have outpatient prescription drug coverage through [Medicaid](#), you can get a Medicare-approved drug discount card. You can enroll as early as May 2004. The discount cards are good until December 31, 2005, when Medicare's new prescription drug benefit starts on January 1, 2006. For a small annual enrollment fee, these cards can help you save on your outpatient prescription costs.

You can recognize these cards because all discount cards approved by Medicare will have this seal on them:



Words in [blue](#)  
are defined on  
page 32.

# Introduction

## Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card (continued)

You can get a discount card from the private companies that meet Medicare's standards. **You can only get one Medicare-approved drug discount card at a time.** Keep in mind that some private companies may offer you discount cards that **aren't** Medicare-approved. You should review all discount cards carefully. If the Medicare-approved seal (shown on page 2) isn't on the discount card, that discount card isn't Medicare-approved. For a list of Medicare-approved drug discount cards, you can do one of the following:

- Look at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web. Select "Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs."
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and ask about drug savings. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you enroll in a Medicare-approved drug discount card, you are the **only** one who can use the card. You shouldn't give your card to anyone for any reason. To learn more about Medicare-approved drug discount cards, turn to page 7.

Remember, if you already have outpatient prescription drug coverage through Medicaid, you aren't eligible for a Medicare-approved drug discount card.

# Introduction

## \$600 to Help Pay for Your Prescriptions

If you choose to get a Medicare-approved drug discount card, you might also qualify for up to a \$600 credit each calendar year (2004 and 2005) to help pay for prescriptions. Depending on your annual income, you will still have to pay a 5% or 10% coinsurance for your prescription drugs. To get the \$600 credit, you have to get a Medicare-approved drug discount card and **all** of the following conditions must apply:

- You have Medicare Part A and/or Part B
- You don't have other health insurance with any outpatient prescription drug coverage\* (except a [Medicare + Choice plan](#) or a [Medigap policy](#))
- Your annual income in 2004 is no more than \$12,569 if you are single, or no more than \$16,862 if you are married (this includes your income and your spouse's income)\*\*

\* Includes outpatient prescription drug coverage from some [Medicare Managed Care plans](#).

\*\* Income includes money that you receive through retirement benefits from Social Security, Railroad Retirement, the Federal government, or other sources. Income also includes benefits you receive for a disability or as a Veteran, plus any other sources of the type that you would report for tax purposes. These income limits change each year. If you live in Alaska or Hawaii, income limits are different.

**Important note:** If your state helps pay your Medicare Part A or Part B premiums, you may still qualify if your income is above \$12,569 if single or \$16,862 if married (your coinsurance at the pharmacy would be 10%).

If you're enrolled in a state pharmacy assistance program (not [Medicaid](#)), you can get a Medicare-approved drug discount card and the \$600 credit. You still need to meet the conditions listed above.

Words in [blue](#) are defined on page 32.

## Introduction

### \$600 to Help Pay for Your Prescriptions (continued)

You can't get the \$600 credit if you already have outpatient prescription drug coverage from any of the following:

- Medicaid
- TRICARE for Life (military health insurance)
- Employer group health plan or other health insurance coverage including some [Medicare Managed Care plans](#) (other than a [Medicare + Choice plan](#) or [Medigap policy](#))
- FEHBP (health insurance for Federal employees or retirees)

Even if you don't qualify for the \$600 credit, you may be able to save money on your prescriptions through a Medicare-approved drug discount card. If you think you qualify for the \$600 credit, or you want to learn more about it, turn to page 17.

If you live in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, or the Northern Mariana Islands, different rules apply. Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for more information. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Words in [blue](#)  
are defined on  
page 32.

# Introduction

## Making the Best Choice for You

### CAUTION

The Medicare-approved drug discount card isn't insurance, and it isn't a substitute for any other health insurance you already have that covers prescription drugs. You shouldn't drop your current prescription drug coverage for a discount card.

Medicare can help you compare the discount card programs and all of your options to make the choice that is best for you. To get help from Medicare

- look at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web. Select "Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs," or
- call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and ask about "drug savings." TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Other discount cards may help you save money on your prescriptions. For more information about cards that don't have the Medicare-approved seal, contact the company offering the card. Also, check your current health insurance coverage.

The rest of this booklet gives you information about Medicare-approved drug discount cards. Keep reading for information about the following topics:

- How these discount cards work
- Who may qualify for the \$600 credit to help pay for prescriptions
- What to do if you have a problem with the card or a complaint
- Where to get more information



## Section 1: Discount card basics



You can enroll in a Medicare-approved drug discount card as early as May 2004. These cards may help lower your outpatient prescription drug costs by offering a discount off the price of your prescriptions **and** some drugs you can get without a prescription if

- you don't have health insurance that covers outpatient prescriptions,
- you have health insurance that limits how much it will pay for your outpatient prescriptions,
- you don't get any type of discount off the price of your outpatient prescriptions, or
- you currently get a discount that is less than the Medicare-approved drug discount card offers.

**Note:** The discounts from the discount card don't apply to drugs that Medicare currently covers (like some cancer drugs).

### How the Program Works

In this program, private companies (like a large group of pharmacies or an insurance company) offer a discount card to people with Medicare. To be a part of this program, companies must apply to Medicare and meet certain Medicare standards like

- providing quality customer service,
- being a stable, reputable business,
- setting up a process for handling complaints, and
- having experience offering prescription drug discounts.

Words in blue  
are defined on  
page 32.

## Section 1: Discount card basics

### How the Program Works (continued)

If a company offers a Medicare-approved drug discount card, the company must make it available to every person with Medicare in the state (unless the company is a [Medicare Managed Care plan](#), see page 14). The companies will decide

- which prescription drugs will be discounted, and
- the amount of the price discount for those drugs.

This means you need to compare each card carefully to choose the one that offers your prescriptions at the best discounted price.

You can compare drug discount cards and drug prices at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web. Select “Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs.” You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to get this information. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Many of the companies that offer a discount card will have a list of drugs they will discount called a [discount drug list](#). When you choose a discount card, you may get a lower price **only** on the prescription drugs on this list.

**A company can change its discount drug list and the discounted prices anytime.** The company will give you information about, and changes to, its discount drug list if you ask for them. It will also put these changes on its website (if it has one). Each company will have a toll-free telephone number for you to call with questions.

**Caution:** If you take a prescription that Medicare covers, you must go to a pharmacy that accepts Medicare. If you go to a pharmacy that doesn't accept Medicare, Medicare won't pay for the prescription.

Words in [blue](#)  
are defined on  
page 32.

## Section 1: Discount card basics

### Who can get a Medicare-approved drug discount card?

You can get a Medicare-approved drug discount card if

- you have Medicare Part A and/or Part B, and
- you don't have outpatient prescription drug benefits through [Medicaid](#) (your state may call this Medical Assistance).

If you're enrolled in a state pharmacy assistance program (not Medicaid), you can still get a card. Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web to see if your state has a pharmacy assistance program.

**Note:** If you already have prescription drug coverage through your current health insurance, or you already get discounts on your prescriptions, review your coverage closely to see if this discount card will save you more money on your prescriptions.

### When can I get a Medicare-approved drug discount card?

You can enroll in a Medicare-approved drug discount card as early as May 2004. The discount cards are good until December 31, 2005. When you choose a discount card, you can't switch to another card for the rest of the calendar year, unless

- you move to a state in which your discount card isn't offered,
- you join or leave a [Medicare Managed Care plan](#),
- you enter or leave a long-term care facility (like a nursing home), or
- the private company stops offering your discount card.

### How do I choose a Medicare-approved drug discount card?

When comparing your Medicare-approved drug discount card choices, you may want to review the [discount drug list](#), drug prices, and choice of pharmacies. This may help you choose the Medicare-approved drug discount card that's best for you.

Words in [blue](#) are defined on page 32.

## Section 1: Discount card basics

### How do I enroll in a Medicare-approved drug discount card?

You can enroll in a Medicare-approved drug discount card as early as May 2004. If a company offers a Medicare-approved drug discount card, the company must make it available to every person with Medicare in the state (unless the company is a Medicare Managed Care plan, see page 14).

When you choose a discount card, you will need to provide information like that on the sample enrollment form on pages 15-16. For a copy of an enrollment form, call the company that offers the drug discount card you want. Ask for the Medicare-approved drug discount card enrollment form. Depending on the company, you can apply by mailing or faxing the completed form to the company or by providing your information over the telephone or on the web. To get a card, you must apply by December 31, 2005.

You may be able to choose from several Medicare-approved drug discount cards. To find out which discount cards are available in your area, for help choosing a discount card, or for help filling out the enrollment form

- look at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web. Select “Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs,”
- call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227),
- call your [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#) (SHIP). To find the telephone number for your SHIP, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. Or, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web. Select “Helpful Contacts,” or
- call the company offering the drug discount card you want.

Once your enrollment form has been approved, the company will send you a Medicare-approved drug discount card. The company will also send specific materials you will need like a member handbook, [discount drug list](#), pharmacy provider directory, and complaint procedures.

Words in blue are defined on page 32.

## Section 1: Discount card basics

### **Can I enroll in more than one Medicare-approved drug discount card?**

No. You can enroll in only one Medicare-approved drug discount card at a time. If you have non-Medicare-approved discount cards, you may use these and your Medicare-approved drug discount card. You should compare the different costs of your prescriptions among all of the drug discount cards that are available, to make sure you are making the best choice.

If you move to another state where your current discount card isn't offered, you can enroll in another discount card.

**Note: If you live part-time in more than one state during the year,** you can still enroll in only one Medicare-approved drug discount card. If you want to use the discount card in more than one state, make sure you choose a discount card that is offered in all of the states where you live.

### **Are there any costs to join a Medicare-approved drug discount card?**

Private companies that offer these cards are allowed to charge you an annual [enrollment fee](#) of no more than \$30. You will have to pay a new enrollment fee every calendar year. You may have to pay it more often if

- you voluntarily decide to switch to a different discount card because you move to another state where your discount card isn't offered,
- you switch to a different discount card after you join or leave a Medicare Managed Care plan,
- you choose a new discount card because the company stopped offering your discount card, or
- you switch to a different discount card after you enter or leave a long-term care facility (like a nursing home).

If you don't pay the annual enrollment fee, the company can cancel your discount card. No matter when you join a Medicare-approved drug discount card, you still have to pay the entire annual enrollment fee.

## Section 1: Discount card basics

Are there any costs to join a Medicare-approved drug discount card? (continued)

Except for the annual enrollment fee and the costs for your prescriptions, private companies offering Medicare-approved drug discount cards can't charge any extra fees. There is no monthly fee for any of these discount cards.

### **What happens if my enrollment form for a Medicare-approved drug discount card is denied?**

If you apply for a Medicare-approved drug discount card and your enrollment form is denied, the company will send you a letter explaining how to get Medicare to review your enrollment form again. You should follow the instructions in that letter. If Medicare decides that you do qualify for the card, they will send you a letter explaining what to do.

### **What drug discounts are available?**

The discount amount is a lower retail price on your prescriptions. The private companies will decide which prescriptions will be offered at a discount and your cost for those prescriptions. If there is a **generic drug** available, the pharmacy should tell you the difference in price between generic and brand name covered discount drugs. Only drugs included on the private company's **discount drug list** will be discounted. Different drugs on this list may be discounted at different rates, and the discounted prices may change over the course of the year.

### **Where can I get my prescriptions if I have a Medicare-approved drug discount card?**

The company will send you a pharmacy provider directory after you are enrolled in the discount card. To get the discount on your prescriptions, you **must** go to one of the pharmacies listed in this directory. If you don't go to a pharmacy listed in this directory, you may not get the discount on your prescriptions. You can also find the pharmacy closest to you that accepts your Medicare-approved drug discount card by looking at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web. Select "Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs."

Words in blue are defined on page 32.

## Section 1: Discount card basics

### **What happens if I choose a discount card and then my doctor changes my prescription?**

If your doctor changes your prescription or prescribes a new drug, give your doctor a copy of the [discount drug list](#) for your discount card. This list should be in the materials you get from the company offering your discount card. This list and the prices for drugs can change. You can call the company, or look on the company's website to find out if the discount drug list has changed.

If your doctor needs to prescribe a drug that isn't on the discount drug list for your card and you don't have any other health insurance that covers outpatient prescription drugs, you will have to pay full price for the prescription.

You can also look at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web to find other programs that may help you pay for your prescriptions. Select "Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs." Or, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for this information. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

### **What should I do if a company that offers a Medicare-approved drug discount card contacts me directly?**

If a company contacts you about joining its Medicare-approved drug discount card, you should compare the card it offers to your other discount card choices before you make a decision. To compare your choices, you can

- look at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web. Select "Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs," or
- call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Words in [blue](#) are defined on page 32.

## Section 1: Discount card basics

### Can I get a Medicare-approved drug discount card if I am in a Medicare Managed Care plan?

Yes. Your [Medicare Managed Care plan](#) may offer a Medicare-approved drug discount card only to its plan members. If it does, you can choose to join only this discount card. If you choose not to join the discount card offered by your Medicare Managed Care plan, you can't choose another Medicare-approved drug discount card.

If your Medicare Managed Care plan doesn't offer a Medicare-approved drug discount card, or offers a discount card that is open to non-members, you can choose any discount card offered in your state. Call your Medicare Managed Care plan for more information.

### Can I leave a Medicare-approved drug discount card?

Yes. You can leave a discount card anytime by notifying the company to tell them why you are leaving.

If you **must** leave for any of the following reasons, you can choose a new discount card anytime:

- You move to a state in which your discount card isn't offered
- You join or leave a [Medicare Managed Care plan](#)
- You enter or leave a long-term care facility (like a nursing home)
- The private company stops offering your discount card

If you **choose** to leave the program in 2004 for any reason other than those listed above, you can apply for a new discount card beginning on November 15, 2004. You will be able to use your new discount card beginning in 2005. If you choose to leave the program in 2005 for any reason other than those listed above, you can't apply for a new discount card.

### What if the company stops offering my discount card?

If the company stops offering your discount card, the company will notify you, in writing, within a reasonable amount of time. If you choose to join another discount card, you will have to pay the annual enrollment fee again.

Words in [blue](#) are defined on page 32.



## Section 1: Discount card basics

SAMPLE

[Company Name]  
[Medicare Seal]

### Enrollment Form for the Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card

**Step 1: Please answer the following statements:**

I have Medicare Part A or Medicare Part B. <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No                 </div>
I <b>do not</b> have outpatient prescription drug benefits under my State Medicaid Program. <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No                 </div>

If you answered YES to BOTH of the statements above, continue to STEP 2.

If you answered NO to either of the statements above, you may not be eligible for this program. Please see the information on page 1, or call [company 800 #] for assistance.

**Step 2: Please complete this information about yourself:**

Name: First	Middle Initial	Last	Birth Date		Sex
Residence Address:	Street	City	State	Zip	
Social Security Number	Medicare ID Number		Telephone Number		

Please continue to the next page

## Section 1: Discount card basics

### Step 3: Read all the information:

**Release of Information:** By applying for enrollment for a Medicare-approved discount card, I allow the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to give information to the company of the drug discount card. The information will say whether I have Medicare Hospital Insurance Benefits (Part A) and/or Supplementary Medical Insurance Benefits (Part B). I also allow the State Medicaid Program or any other agency with relevant information about me to give CMS or CMS's agents the information needed to determine if I am eligible for the drug discount card.

**Review of Eligibility:** I understand that my application will be considered without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, religion, national origin, or political belief. I understand that by signing this application I am agreeing to a full investigation or review of my eligibility by states, federal agencies, or their contractors and, if requested, I agree to provide the documents necessary to confirm the accuracy and completeness of the information provided in this application. If documents aren't available, I agree to give the name of the person or organization that can provide and release this necessary information.

By signing below, you certify that you have read and understand the information on this enrollment form. If you can't sign, a representative may sign for you. Federal law provides for fine or imprisonment, or both for any person who withholds or gives false information to obtain assistance to which (s)he is not entitled. I understand the questions on this application and I certify, under penalty of perjury, that the information given by me on this form is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your enrollment form in the envelope provided.

## Section 2: Help with your prescription drug costs



If your annual income is below a certain level, Medicare may pay your annual **enrollment fee** for the Medicare-approved drug discount card and provide up to a \$600 credit each calendar year (2004 and 2005) toward your prescription drugs. You can use the \$600 credit toward most prescriptions, even those not on the **discount drug list**. If you get the \$600 credit to help you pay for your prescriptions, you will still have to pay a percentage of the cost for each prescription.

### **Who can get the \$600 credit from Medicare to help pay for prescriptions?**

You may be able to get the \$600 credit to help pay for your prescriptions if

- you have Medicare Part A and/or Part B,
- you don't have other health insurance with any outpatient prescription drug coverage (except a Medicare + Choice plan or a Medigap policy), and
- your annual income in 2004 is no more than \$12,569 if you are single, or no more than \$16,862 if you are married (this includes your income and your spouse's income).\*

\* Income includes money that you receive through retirement benefits from Social Security, Railroad Retirement, the Federal government, or other sources. Income also includes benefits you receive for a disability or as a Veteran, plus any other sources of the type that you would report for tax purposes. These income limits change each year. If you live in Alaska or Hawaii, income limits are different.

You **can't** get the \$600 credit from Medicare for prescription drugs if you have outpatient prescription drug coverage from **any** of the following:

- Medicaid
- TRICARE for Life (military health insurance)
- Employer group health plan or other health insurance coverage including some **Medicare Managed Care plans** (other than a **Medicare + Choice plan** or **Medigap policy**)
- FEHBP (health insurance for Federal employees or retirees)

Words in blue are defined on page 32.

You also can't get the \$600 credit if you are in a Medicare Managed Care plan that is a "cost" plan that offers a drug discount card to its members. If you have questions about whether this applies to you, call your plan.

## Section 2: Help with your prescription drug costs

### **How do I get the \$600 credit from Medicare to help pay for prescriptions?**

To find out if you can get the \$600 credit from Medicare, complete and return an enrollment form like the sample enrollment form on pages 22-24. To get a copy of this form, call the company offering the discount card you want, and ask for an enrollment form for the \$600 credit. You can apply by mailing or faxing the completed form to the company.

If you don't already have a Medicare-approved drug discount card when you apply for the \$600 credit, you must apply for the \$600 credit to help pay for your prescriptions **and** the discount card you want at the same time.

After you provide this information, the company will send your completed form to Medicare. Medicare will see if you meet the requirements for the \$600 credit. If you qualify for the \$600 credit from Medicare, you won't have to pay the annual **enrollment fee** for the discount card you choose.

If you are already enrolled in a Medicare-approved drug discount card and you become eligible for the \$600 credit, you can apply through the company that offers your card at anytime. If you qualify, Medicare will pay the annual enrollment fee, and the company will refund any enrollment fee you already paid for that year.

### **When can I apply for the \$600 credit from Medicare to help pay for prescriptions?**

In 2004, you can apply anytime for the \$600 credit through a Medicare-approved drug discount card. If you are eligible, you will get the full \$600 credit no matter when you apply in 2004. You don't have to reapply for the \$600 credit to help pay for your prescriptions in 2005. As long as you have a Medicare-approved drug discount card, you will get another \$600 credit on your discount card at the beginning of 2005.

Words in **blue** are defined on page 32.

## Section 2: Help with your prescription drug costs

When can I apply for the \$600 credit from Medicare to help pay for prescriptions? (continued)

In 2005, if you are applying for the first time, the amount of your credit will depend on when you apply for a Medicare-approved drug discount card. The chart below shows how much you will get depending on when you apply in 2005:

If you apply between	You will get
January 1 - March 31, 2005	\$600 credit
April 1 - June 30, 2005	\$450 credit
July 1 - September 30, 2005	\$300 credit
October 1 - December 31, 2005	\$150 credit

### What happens to the rest of the \$600 credit if I have money left on December 31, 2004?

You may be able to carry over any of the \$600 credit you have left at the end of 2004. The three situations below and on page 20 describe when you can carry over any of the credit you have left.

1. If you keep the same discount card for all of 2004 and some of your \$600 credit is left at the end of the year, you can use that money in 2005.
2. If you leave a Medicare-approved drug discount card and join a new Medicare-approved drug discount card in 2004 for any of the following reasons **and** you have some of your \$600 credit left, you may be able to use that money when you join the new Medicare-approved drug discount card:
  - You move to a state in which your discount card isn't offered
  - You join or leave a [Medicare Managed Care plan](#)
  - You enter or leave a long-term care facility (like a nursing home)
  - The private company stops offering your discount card

Words in [blue](#) are defined on page 32.

## Section 2: Help with your prescription drug costs

What happens to the rest of the \$600 credit if I have money left on December 31, 2004? (continued)

3. If you change Medicare-approved drug discount cards, you can use any of the \$600 credit you have left at the end of 2004 under your new card in 2005 if
  - you changed cards for one of the reasons listed on page 19, or
  - you elected to change cards between November 15, 2004 and December 31, 2004.

If you switch discount cards for any reason not listed above, you will lose any of the \$600 credit left from 2004.

### **What happens if I don't get the \$600 credit from Medicare to help pay for prescriptions?**

If you apply for the \$600 credit from Medicare and your enrollment form is denied, the company will send you a letter explaining how to get Medicare to review your enrollment form again. You should follow the instructions in that letter. If you ask for a review and Medicare decides that you do qualify for the \$600 credit to help pay for your prescriptions and you have already paid your annual **enrollment fee**, you will get a refund.

Words in **blue**  
are defined on  
page 32.

## **Section 2: Help with your prescription drug costs**

### **How do I use the \$600 credit from Medicare to help pay for prescriptions?**

If you are approved for the \$600 credit from Medicare to help pay for your prescriptions, the amount you are approved for will be applied to your discount card. Each time you use your discount card, you will pay a 5% or 10% coinsurance on the discounted cost of your prescription. The pharmacy will then deduct the amount you spend on your prescriptions from your discount card. Whether you pay a 5% or 10% coinsurance depends on your annual income when you applied for the \$600 credit and the Medicare-approved drug discount card.

### **How do I know how much of my \$600 credit I have left?**

When you use your discount card, the pharmacist or the statement you get with your prescription will tell you how much of the \$600 you have left. You can also call the company's toll-free telephone number to get this information.

### **What happens to my \$600 credit if I leave the discount card?**

You can leave the discount card anytime by writing the company to tell them why you are leaving. If you are leaving for reasons other than the four listed on page 19, you will lose the remainder of the \$600 credit for that year. You may be able to choose another discount card any time from November 15, 2004 through December 31, 2004. You will be able to use your new discount card in 2005. You will also be able to get a \$600 credit in 2005 if you qualify.

### **What happens when my \$600 credit runs out?**

When you have used all of your \$600 credit, you still will be able to use your Medicare-approved drug discount card to save money on your prescriptions. If you don't have other prescription drug coverage, you will have to pay the full discounted price.

## Section 2: Help with your prescription drug costs

**[Company Name]**  
**[Medicare Seal]**

### Enrollment Form for the Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card AND Additional Assistance in Paying for Your Prescription Drugs

#### Step 1: Please answer the following statements:

I have Medicare Part A or Medicare Part B.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
I do not have outpatient prescription drug benefits under my State Medicaid Program.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

If you answered YES to BOTH of the statements above, continue to STEP 2.  
If you answered NO to either of the statements above, you may not be eligible for this program. Please see the information on page 1, or call [company 800 #] for assistance.

#### Step 2: Please complete this information about yourself:

Name: First			Middle Initial		Last		Birth Date		Sex
Residence Address: Street			City		State		Zip		
Social Security Number			Medicare ID Number			Telephone Number			

#### Step 3: Please answer the following questions:

Do you have TRICARE (military health insurance)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have Federal employee or retiree health insurance (FEHBP)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have other health coverage that includes outpatient prescription drugs, such as employer or retiree plans?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Note:</b> If your health coverage is through a Medicare + Choice (M+C) plan or Medigap plan, answer “no” to this question.		
If you answered YES to any of the statements above, you may not be eligible for the \$600 credit. Please see the information on page 2, or call [company 800 # ] for assistance.		
If you answered NO to all of these questions, please continue to the next page.		



## Section 2: Help with your prescription drug costs

[Company Name]

### Enrollment Form for the Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card AND Additional Assistance in Paying for Your Prescription Drugs

#### Step 4: Please answer the following questions about your income:

Does your state help you pay your Medicare Part A or Part B premiums?  Yes  No

If you answered YES, please complete the following then SKIP to STEP 5:

Please indicate your income here: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one: I am single  -or- I am married

If your state helps pay your Medicare Part A or Part B premiums, you may still qualify if your income is above \$12,569 if single or \$16,862 if married (your coinsurance at the pharmacy would be 10%).

If you answered NO, please complete the remaining questions in this box.

I am single and my income is:

\$12,569 or less (10% coinsurance at the pharmacy)

\$9,310 or less (5% coinsurance at the pharmacy)

I am married and my income, including my spouse's income, is:

\$16,862 or less (10% coinsurance at the pharmacy)

\$12,490 or less (5% coinsurance at the pharmacy)

If married, please include your spouse's Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you recently (within the last 2 years) retired or been widowed or divorced?  Yes  No

## Section 2: Help with your prescription drug costs

### Step 5: Read all the information and sign your form:

**Release of Information:** By applying for enrollment in this company's Medicare-approved discount card, I allow the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to give information to the company of the Medicare-approved drug discount card. The information will say whether I have Medicare Hospital Insurance Benefits (Part A) and/or Supplementary Medical Insurance Benefits (Part B). I also allow the State Medicaid Program, Social Security Administration, and Internal Revenue Service, or any other agency with relevant information about me to give CMS or CMS's agents the information needed to determine if I am eligible for the Medicare-approved prescription drug card and, if applying, for a credit of up to \$600 toward prescription drugs.

**Review of Eligibility:** I understand that my application will be considered without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, religion, national origin, or political belief. I also understand that by signing this application I am agreeing to a full investigation or review of my eligibility by states, federal agencies, or their contractors and, if requested, I agree to provide the documents necessary to confirm the accuracy and completeness of the information provided in this application. If documents aren't available, I agree to give the name of the person or organization that can provide and release this necessary information.

**By signing below, you certify that you have read and understand the information on this entire enrollment form. If you can't sign, a representative may sign for you.**

Federal law provides for fine or imprisonment, or both for any person who withholds or gives false information to obtain assistance to which (s)he is not entitled. I understand the questions on this application and I certify, under penalty of perjury, that the information given by me on this form is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your enrollment form is not complete unless it is signed.

Please return your enrollment form to [company name].

## Section 3: Steps to choosing a discount card



The five steps below can help you choose a Medicare-approved drug discount card. Use the personal worksheets on the following pages as a tool to help you decide which discount card is best for you. These worksheets aren't part of the enrollment process.

- 1** Get information about your current prescription drug coverage. Make a list of the prescriptions you currently take and how much you pay for each drug to see if a discount card may be right for you. Fill in your answers on this personal worksheet.
- 2** Find out which discount cards are available in your state, and get information on each one.
- 3** Compare each discount card based on what is important to you.
- 4** Decide if you want a discount card. Choose the one that is best for you. Fill out and send your enrollment form to the company.
- 5** Review your discount card choices each year.

## Section 3: Steps to choosing a discount card

### Step 1

**Get information about your current prescription drug coverage. Make a list of the prescriptions you currently take and how much you pay for each drug to see if a discount card may be right for you. Fill in your answers on this personal worksheet.**

1. Do you have any health insurance/coverage in addition to Medicare?  
 Yes       No (If you answer no, go to question 5.)
  
2. What kind of health insurance do you have (Example: an employer group health plan, a **Medigap policy**, a **Medicare + Choice plan**, Veteran's benefits, or TRICARE for Life)? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Do you get outpatient prescription drug coverage under this plan? (If yes, go to question 4. If no, go to question 5.)  
 Yes       No
  
4. How much do you pay out-of-pocket each month for your prescriptions?  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is there a limit on this coverage?  
 (Example: your insurance pays only \$1,000 each year toward prescription drugs)  
 Yes       No
  
5. Do you already have a discount card (like a drugstore loyalty card or a discount card offered by your Medicare Managed Care plan)?  
 Yes       No (If you answer no, go to question 7.)
  
6. What discount do you get from this card? \_\_\_\_\_%
  
7. In the spaces below, list specific information about the prescriptions you currently take. If you need more space, continue on a blank piece of paper.

Prescription name	Dosage of prescription (ml, mg)	Number of times a day you take your prescription	Amount you pay each month

## Section 3: Steps to choosing a discount card

### Step 2 Find out which discount cards are available in your state, and get information on each one.

To find out which discount cards are available in your state, look at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web. Select “Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs.” Or, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

When you’ve found some discount cards you are interested in, call the private companies and use the chart below to fill in information about these discount cards.

<b>Card Plan Name</b>			
Which of my prescriptions does this discount card cover?			
How much do my prescriptions cost?			
Does my pharmacy accept this card?			
What is the enrollment fee?			
Can I use this discount card if I travel to other states?			
Can I get my prescriptions through the mail?			
Does mail order offer a different discount than a pharmacy?			
What is the company’s complaint process? Do I understand it?			

**Note:** If you are enrolled in a [Medicare Managed Care plan](#) that offers a Medicare-approved drug discount card to its plan members, you can only join this discount card. See page 14 for more information if you are in a Medicare Managed Care plan.

## Section 3: Steps to choosing a discount card

### Step 3 Compare each discount card based on what is important to you.

You may want to ask yourself some of these questions:

- Which card offers discounts on most of the prescriptions I take?
- Which discount card gives me the best overall price on all of my prescriptions?
- Which company allows me to use the pharmacy I want?

If you want to get a Medicare-approved drug discount card, but don't want to change your pharmacy, go to [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web. Select "Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs." You can type in the name and address of your pharmacy, and get a list of the drug discount cards that allow you to use your pharmacy to get discounts on your prescriptions.

### Step 4 Decide if you want a discount card. Choose the one that is best for you. Fill out and send your enrollment form to the company.

Choose the discount card you think is best for you and call the private company offering this discount card to get an enrollment form. Then, fill out the enrollment form and mail it back to the company. You may have to include your Social Security Number and the number on your Medicare card.

You will also need to decide if you want to apply for the \$600 credit from Medicare to help pay for your prescriptions. Start by answering the questions on the enrollment form to figure out if you qualify for the \$600 credit. If you think you qualify, complete the enrollment form and mail or fax it to the company offering the discount card you want.

**Note:** You may be able to sign up for the discount card over the telephone or on the web. If you are applying for the \$600 credit, you must mail or fax your completed enrollment form to the private company.

## Section 3: Steps to choosing a discount card

### Step 5 Review your discount card choices each year.

Review your discount card choices because they may change. Remember, you can get a Medicare-approved drug discount card **anytime** until December 31, 2005 if

- you are joining for the first time in a calendar year,
- you are choosing another Medicare-approved drug discount card because the company stops offering your discount card,
- you move to a state in which your discount card isn't offered,
- you join or leave a [Medicare Managed Care plan](#),
- you enter or leave a long-term care facility (like a nursing home), or
- you lose [Medicaid](#), employer group health plan, or TRICARE for Life prescription drug coverage.

Words in blue  
are defined on  
page 32.

## Section 4: Have a problem with your discount card?



### What can I do if I have a complaint?

If you have a complaint about your drug discount card, you should call the company first. Some examples of why you may file a complaint are

- having to wait too long for your prescription,
- the pharmacy won't accept the \$600 credit from Medicare,
- the pharmacy is charging you more than it is supposed to,\* or
- the company is sending you materials not related to the Medicare-approved drug discount card that you didn't ask to get.

\* If you think you were charged too much for a prescription, call the company offering your discount card to get the most up-to-date price. Prices for prescriptions can change weekly. You can also look at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web to get pricing information. Select "Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs." Or, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If the company doesn't take care of your complaint, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.



## Section 5: For more information



For more detailed information about the discount cards available in your area, you can

- look at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web.  
Select “Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs,” or
- call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).  
TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

You can find out which discount cards offer discounts on your prescriptions, the discount amount, and other choices you may have to lower your prescription drug costs. You can also call any company offering a discount card to get more information.

If you need help deciding which discount card may be the best for you, call your [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#). To get this telephone number, you can

- look at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web.  
Select “Helpful Contacts,” or
- call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).  
TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Words in [blue](#)  
are defined on  
page 32.

## Section 6: Words to know



**Discount Drug List** - A list of certain drugs and their proper dosages. The discount drug list includes the drugs the company will discount.

**Enrollment Fee** - The amount you must pay every year to get a Medicare-approved drug discount card.

**Generic Drug** - A prescription drug that has the same active-ingredient formula as a brand name drug. Generic drugs usually cost less than brand name drugs and are rated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be as safe and effective as brand name drugs.

**Medicaid** - A joint Federal and State program that helps with medical costs for some people with low incomes and limited resources. Medicaid programs vary from state to state, but most health care costs are covered if you qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid.

**Medicare + Choice Plan** - A Medicare program that gives you more choices among health plans. Everyone who has Medicare Parts A and B is eligible, except those who have End-Stage Renal Disease unless certain exceptions apply. Medicare + Choice plans may also be called Medicare Advantage plans.

**Medicare Managed Care Plan** - A Medicare + Choice Plan option that is available in some areas of the country. In most managed care plans, you can only go to doctors, specialists, or hospitals on the plan's list. Plans must cover all Medicare Part A and Part B health care. Some managed care plans cover extras, like prescription drugs. Your costs may be lower than in the Original Medicare Plan.

**Medigap Policy** - A Medicare supplement insurance policy sold by private insurance companies to fill "gaps" in Original Medicare Plan coverage. Except in Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, there are ten standardized plans labeled Plan A through Plan J. Medigap policies only work with the Original Medicare Plan.

**Original Medicare Plan** - A pay-per-visit health plan that lets you go to any doctor, hospital, or other health care supplier who accepts Medicare and is accepting new Medicare patients. You must pay the deductible. Medicare pays its share of the Medicare-approved amount, and you pay your share (coinsurance). The Original Medicare Plan has two parts: Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance).

**State Health Insurance Assistance Program** - A State program that gets money from the Federal Government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare.

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

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Penalty for Private Use, \$300

Publication No. CMS-11062

March 2004

More information is available at

- [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web
- 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

To get this booklet in Braille or Spanish, call  
1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).  
TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

¿Necesita usted una copia en español?  
Llame gratis al 1-800-MEDICARE  
(1-800-633-4227).