

Dear Pharmacist –

As a pharmacy that participates in the Medicare-approved drug card program, you are aware of the savings that are available to people who enroll in Medicare. In October, more than a million people with Medicare will be getting the attached “Important Message from Medicare” and a Medicare-approved drug discount card in the mail. People receiving this important message are likely to qualify for up to \$1,200 in credits from Medicare to help pay for their prescription drug costs.

These people will also receive a Medicare-approved drug discount card that they will be able to begin using on November 1, 2004.

The purpose of this letter is to enlist your support in assisting people with Medicare who come to you with questions about this “Important Message from Medicare” and need additional information about how to apply for the \$1,200 credit potentially available to them through the Medicare-approved drug card. The attached copy of the important message will help you answer these questions. Assisting a beneficiary could be as simple as instructing him or her to call either the company shown on the card or 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). The beneficiary will be asked during this call if he or she has any other health insurance that includes prescription drug coverage, as well as some additional eligibility questions to see if he or she qualifies for more help.

We have also enclosed a flyer appropriate for public display in your pharmacy. The purpose of this flyer is to encourage people who may qualify for the \$1,200 credit to call and find out if they are eligible to receive this important benefit. If you need any additional information or resources, please visit www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships; click on the box on the far right with the “Medicare RX” symbol.

We appreciate your help in this important effort. Questions from people with Medicare may be directed to 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227 or TTY 1-877-486-2048).