Medicare release

Important Information for Patients with Medicare and those with Medicare/Medi-Cal coverage

A new Medicare prescription drug program, called Medicare Part D began Jan. 1. This new program affects all Medicare patients, including those who also have Medi-Cal. When the new program starts, you will have to go to a pharmacy that participates in your Medicare Part D plan in order to have your medication covered by the Part D benefit.

The County's Health Center Pharmacies do not participate in the Medicare Part D Program. This means that Medicare and Medicare/Medi-Cal patients can no longer get prescriptions filled at county-run pharmacies unless you choose to pay cash.

However, there are many local pharmacies which are participating in Medicare Part D. Each drug plan has its own pharmacy network so you should always ask your pharmacy if it participates in your specific Medicare Part D plan before having your prescriptions filled.

If you need help or have questions, The county Health Department has staff who can help you understand which Medicare prescription drug plan you are enrolled in and where you can go to get your prescriptions filled. Please ask to speak with a Financial Counseling Representative for assistance or call the following phone number: 1-877-503-9350

Other Free Phone and Internet Resources:

- Call Medicare at 1-800-633-4227 (TTY users call 1-877-486-2048).
- Call the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) at 1-800-434-0222.
- Call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 to learn if you might be eligible for extra help.
- Go to the State of California, Department of Health Services Web site
- Go to www.Medicare.gov
- If you have both Medi-Cal and Medicare, the Health Consumer Alliance has helpful fact sheets on its Web site: www.healthconsumer.org