



# PROVIDER QUICK TIPS

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## PHARMACY SERVICES FOR DUAL ELIGIBLES

**REMINDER:** MA Bulletin number 99-05-21 reminds providers that effective January 1, 2006, dual eligibles who qualify for pharmacy services, including residents in long term care facilities, under the MA Program:

- Will no longer receive their prescription drug coverage from the MA Program; Medicare will provide prescription drug coverage, with some exceptions.
- Will receive a modified scope of pharmacy services under the MA Program.

You may view the bulletin at this link: <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/publications/bulletinsearch/index.htm>

The Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) established the Medicare Prescription Drug Program (Part D), making prescription drug coverage available to individuals who are entitled to receive Medicare benefits under Part A or Part B, beginning on January 1, 2006. Prescription drug coverage will be provided by Medicare through private Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, which will offer only prescription drug coverage, or through Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans, which will offer prescription drug coverage that is integrated with the health care coverage they provide to Medicare beneficiaries under Part C of Medicare.

Currently, the MA Program covers outpatient drugs for those dual eligibles who qualify for pharmacy services under the MA Program. Some dual eligibles who do not qualify for pharmacy services under the MA Program can receive family planning drugs. Beginning January 1, 2006, dual eligibles who qualify for pharmacy services under the MA Program will receive prescription drug coverage through Part D rather than the MA Program, with some exceptions. Drugs excluded under Part D and otherwise covered under the MA Program include the following:

- Benzodiazepines
- Barbiturates
  - Agents when used for the symptomatic relief of cough and colds (applies only to children under 21 years of age)
  - Over the Counter (OTC) drugs, under certain circumstances

The change in the scope of pharmacy services in the MA Program applies to all dual eligibles (adults and children) in the FFS delivery system and dual eligible children under the age of 21 years enrolled in a HealthChoices physical health or a voluntary managed care organization.

Providers rendering services under the managed care delivery system should address any questions related to requirements and procedures for prescriptions for dual eligibles under the age of 21 years who are eligible for the modified scope of pharmacy services under the MA Program to the appropriate managed care organization.

Pharmacy providers rendering services to dual eligibles under Part D must be enrolled in the Medicare Prescription Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans in their areas and should address any questions related to requirements and procedures to the appropriate plan.

**Thank you for your service to our Medical Assistance recipients. DHS values your participation.  
Check the Department of Human Services' website often at: [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)**