



MEDICARE PART D: PLAN REVIEW PREPARATION GUIDE

On October 1, just a few weeks after the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is expected to announce which Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) and Medicare Advantage Plans (MA-PDs) it has approved, those plans will begin marketing to Medicare beneficiaries. Although Medicare Part D establishes a standard prescription drug benefit, there will likely be many regional and national plans to choose from, each with multiple plan designs. Your Medicare patients will ask you for guidance. This document is designed to help you offer guidance to your Medicare patients on plan design, in advance of PDP and MA-PD marketing. McKesson will be sending you additional materials to help you navigate plan designs in the coming weeks.

Your Medicare customers will ask...	You should advise them to consider...
<p>What will my costs be if I sign up with a plan?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the monthly premium and deductible? • What is the co-insurance percentage during the initial coverage period? • Is there a coverage gap? Is there any assistance in the coverage gap? • What is the average co-pay amount for brand drugs? For generic drugs? • Does the plan offer 90-day prescriptions at pharmacies? How does the patient's co-pay amount differ between mail order and retail?
<p>Are all of my drugs covered?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How restrictive is the formulary? Is it tiered? • Are there incentives to encourage the use of generic drugs? • Are there planned interventions or therapy management, including step therapies and prior authorization requirements? What is the exceptions process?
<p>Can I continue to use my community pharmacy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does my preferred pharmacy accept the plan? • What is the size of the plan's network? Is the plan contracted with pharmacies across the country or only in your region? • Does the plan offer mail order? • If the plan offers Medication Therapy Management services, are they offered at retail pharmacies or by a call center?

<p>Will I receive any special benefits by signing up for a plan?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the plan offer only the standard Part D benefit (or one that is actuarially equivalent to the standard plan design), or are enhanced benefits offered? • Does the plan partner with State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs (SPAPs) or other third parties that provide wraparound coverage for limited income patients?
<p>Who will I call if I have questions about my plan?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the plan administered by an organization that has experience serving seniors? • Are enrollment materials easy to understand and readily available? • How accessible are customer service representatives?