

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

EDUARDO J. SANCHEZ, M.D., M.P.H.
COMMISSIONER

September 30, 2005

Beginning January 1, 2006, Medicare Rx will become the primary source for the prescription drugs you currently receive through the Kidney Health Care (KHC) Program. If you are not a Medicare-eligible KHC recipient, KHC will continue to cover four prescriptions per month (with \$6 co-pay per prescription and 34-day supply). Medications for transplant patients will continue to be covered under Medicare Part B if that is how you are getting those medications now.

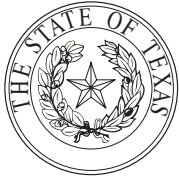
What does this mean for me?

- With Medicare Rx you can receive drug coverage for *most* of your prescription medications, not just those covered by KHC.
- With the new Medicare Rx Program you will be responsible for paying at least part of the out-of-pocket drug costs.
- If you have private drug coverage, you will need to look at your drug coverage and decide if it's still the best drug coverage for you.

Will I get help with out-of-pocket costs?

The Social Security Administration may be able to provide extra help with your out-of-pocket drug costs. If you are single and have an annual income below \$14,355 or you are married with an annual income less than \$19,245, you may qualify for this extra help. You can only receive this help if you fill out an application from the Social Security Administration for extra help.

In addition, if funds are available, KHC may be able to assist you with your out-of-pocket drug costs. More information on KHC's assistance will be available in the fall.



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What are the next steps?

This October, Medicare will send you information about the different Medicare Rx prescription drug plans that will be offered.

To make sure you continue to get the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) drugs you need, you must do two things:

1. Choose a Medicare Rx prescription drug plan that best meets your needs. If you need assistance in choosing a plan, call your renal social worker.
2. Enroll in the plan of your choice. Starting November 15, 2005, you can enroll by calling 1-800-MEDICARE or by calling the prescription drug plan directly.

You must enroll in a prescription drug plan to continue to receive your necessary ESRD medications. KHC will be mailing you more information about your KHC benefits in the fall.

Sincerely,

Texas Department of State Health Services