

PAAD and Senior Gold Changes 2009

The Office of Senior Services is working to assist those individuals on the Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) and the Senior Gold Program to understand the changes taking place as a result of the newly adopted State budget.

Certain drugs excluded from coverage by Medicare Part D will no longer be covered by PAAD or Senior Gold.

- Effective August 1, 2009, Both PAAD and Senior Gold will no longer cover the following medications (you should be aware that these drugs may NOT be included in your Medicare Part D coverage): drugs to treat impotency, cosmetic drugs (including but not limited to drugs used to treat skin conditions, weight gain, weight loss, or hair loss), cough and cold products, and vitamins. PAAD and Senior Gold will continue to pay for benzodiazepines and barbiturates.

PAAD and Senior Gold will only provide coverage as secondary payer for those medications that are on the list of covered drugs provided by your Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

- Effective August 1, 2009, PAAD and Senior Gold will provide secondary coverage if necessary for a medication only if your Medicare Part D prescription drug plan pays first for that medication on its list of covered drugs (known as a formulary). This means that if your Part D plan is the primary payer for a medication covered on its formulary, PAAD and Senior Gold will provide coverage as secondary payer if needed for that drug, and if you are on PAAD you will only have to pay your regular PAAD copayment of \$6 for PAAD covered generic drugs or \$7 for PAAD covered brand name drugs. If you are on Senior Gold you will only have to pay your regular Senior Gold copayment for drugs covered under the Senior Gold program. You may even pay less than the PAAD or Senior Gold copayment if your Medicare Part D plan charges you less for that medication.
- If your Medicare Part D prescription drug plan does not pay for a medication because the drug is not on its formulary, you will have to switch to a drug on your Part D plan's formulary, or your doctor will have to request an exception due to medical necessity directly to your Part D plan. This means that if you do not switch to a formulary drug or your doctor does not request an exception, you will be responsible for handling the appeal process yourself directly with your Part D plan and for paying the entire cost of the drug during the appeal period.

If you are on PAAD...

- You must join a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan if you haven't done so already in order to use your PAAD benefits unless you are not eligible for Medicare Part D or unless you have other exceptional prescription coverage. In general, PAAD coverage is considered "**creditable coverage**" for enrollment purposes in Medicare Part D.

- As long as you remain eligible to participate in the PAAD program, PAAD will pay the monthly premium on your behalf for **certain** Medicare Part D prescription drug plans in New Jersey, and PAAD will pay any late enrollment penalty on your behalf that the federal Medicare program may charge you for not enrolling in Medicare Part D when you were first eligible to do so. However, if your PAAD coverage is discontinued, the PAAD program will stop paying both your monthly Medicare Part D prescription drug plan premium and any late enrollment penalty that Medicare may charge you. Without PAAD coverage, you will have to pay the late enrollment penalty every month you are enrolled in Medicare Part D in addition to the monthly premium that you will have to pay directly to your Medicare Part D plan.

If you are on Senior Gold...

- You must join a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan if you haven't done so already in order to use your Senior Gold benefits unless you are not eligible for Medicare Part D or unless you have other exceptional prescription coverage. Senior Gold coverage is **NOT** considered "**creditable coverage**" for enrollment purposes in Medicare Part D.
- Because Senior Gold is not creditable coverage, the federal Medicare program may charge you a late enrollment penalty (1) when you first enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, or (2) if you drop your current Medicare Part D coverage and then try to re-enroll in Part D at a later date. If Medicare charges you a Part D late enrollment penalty, you must pay the penalty every month you are enrolled in Medicare Part D in addition to the monthly premium you must pay directly to your Medicare Part D plan.

For further information and assistance, please call the PAAD/Senior Gold program toll-free hotline at 1-800-792-9745. Help is also available at the following locations:

**Ocean County Office of Senior Services
732-929-2091, 1-800-668-4899, 1-877-222-3737**

Ocean County Connection/Ocean County Mall
732-288-7777

Manchester Twp. Outreach
732-657-8121 Ext. 1132

Berkeley Senior Outreach
732-244-9600

Shore Area Outreach
732-892-5514

Brick Twp. Senior Center & Outreach
732-920-8686

Toms River Senior Center & Outreach
732-341-1000 Ext. 8461

Community Services Inc. Outreach
732-367-1400, Ext. 21

Lighthouse at Community Medical Center
1-800-621-0096

Long Beach Island Senior Center & Outreach
609-494-8861

Elder-Med at Southern Ocean County Hospital --- The Ocean Club
609-978-3559