



MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT: Helen V. Ridley
Director of Advocacy/Community Relations
ElderSource
Area Agency on Aging for Northeast Florida
4160 Woodcock Drive, 2nd Floor
Jacksonville, FL 32207
direct line: (904) 391-6615
direct fax: (904) 391-6616
ridleyh@elderaffairs.org

Dealing with Medicare's Doughnut Hole

Jacksonville, FL – Seniors will soon have new options to help them deal with the high drug costs of Medicare's prescription coverage gap, the "doughnut hole." The Affordable Care Act, signed by President Obama this year contains come important benefits for those who have Medicare.

If you have Medicare prescription drug coverage, and are not receiving Medicare Extra Help, you will automatically get sent a one-time \$250 tax free rebate check after you reach the coverage gap in 2010. "Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, millions of people with Medicare who will fall into the Part D doughnut hole next year will pay less for their prescription drugs," said Vice President Joseph Biden.

Starting in 2011, the nation's pharmaceutical manufacturers will provide 50 percent discounts on the cost of covered brand-name prescription drugs for beneficiaries in the Medicare Part D coverage gap. The discount manufactures will pay on brand-name drugs will help millions of seniors who are struggling to make ends meet. The discounts are expected to reduce Medicare beneficiaries' out-of-pocket costs by more than \$2 billion in 2011. This is one of the ways the new health care law is making Medicare stronger.

"Most Medicare prescription drug plan premiums will remain stable next year and beneficiaries will find there are clearer plan options and many plans that can help them save even more- like those plans that are offering benefits that help fill the doughnut hole," said CMS Administrator Donald Berwick, MD. The Affordable Care Act will improve the value of drug coverage seniors will receive next year.

Medicare's open enrollment begins on November 15, 2010. For more information call SHINE or Elder Helpline @ 904 391 6699.

As the Northeast Florida Area Agency on Aging, ElderSource is the one-stop shop for Seniors and their caregivers in Northeast Florida. As the Aging Resource Center for this region, ElderSource offers a variety of services to persons 60 and above.

ElderSource helps you find information, resources, and services for aging related issues. The Elder Helpline is the portal to a variety of community resources including direct services, like home care & meals and free, unbiased Medicare/Medicaid counseling. We encourage active seniors with wellness and preventative activities. Please go to our web site: www.myeldersource.org or call the Elder Helpline at 888.242.4464.

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