



The Savvy Consumer's Checklist Prescription Drug Discount Cards

Under the new Medicare discount card plan, you can choose from a number of legitimate discount cards offered by pharmaceutical companies and prescription drug providers. Illinois also offers its residents discounts through state programs such as Illinois Rx Buying Club and SeniorCare. With all of these options, it is easy to become overwhelmed and confused.

The following guidelines will help you choose the best card for you.

- J **Do not rush into choosing a plan.** The Medicare discount drug card is a voluntary program and you can sign up any time after June 1, 2004.
 - J **Do not give out any personal or financial information face-to-face or over the phone, unless you initiated contact.** Medicare-affiliated discount card providers will not solicit business by going door-to-door or by making telephone calls.
 - J **Do not pay large sums of money up front.** Medicare discount drug cards will never cost more than \$30 per year and will have the official Medicare seal on them.
 - J **Consider multiple offers.** Make sure the plan you choose covers the medicines you take and is accepted by your local pharmacy.
- ✓ **Ask questions.** A card sponsor will give you information about the discounts it offers and the drugs it covers only if you ask.

If you are very low-income, you may be eligible for \$600 from Medicare this year and next year to help you pay for your prescription drugs. To find out if you are eligible for this benefit, or for general information about the Medicare discount drug benefit and state pharmaceutical benefits, call the Department on Aging's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice/TTY).

For more information on prescription drugs, please visit our Web site at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov or call our office's Senior Citizens Consumer Fraud Helpline at 1-800-243-5377.

To file a complaint about a prescription drug card plan, call our Health Care Helpline at 1-877-305-5145.

Chicago
1-800-386-5438

Springfield
1-800-243-0618

Carbondale
1-800-243-0607

Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 7-1-1 relay service.