

Medicare Prescription Drug,  
Improvement, and Modernization Act  
Implementation Timeline:  
**June 2004—December 2006 Key Dates**

June 2004

Medicare-approved drug discount card use begins; \$600 in transitional assistance available for low-income enrollees for the remainder of 2004

August 3, 2004

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) publishes proposed rules for Medicare drug benefit and Medicare Advantage (MA) program

October 4, 2004

Deadline for submitting public comments on proposed rules to CMS

Fall 2004

Social Security Administrator issues proposed rules regarding eligibility determinations for low-income subsidies

November 15, 2004

Annual coordinated election period for 2005 discount card program enrollment begins (ends December 31, 2004)

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| <p><b>June 2004</b><br/>Medicare-approved drug discount card use begins; \$600 in transitional assistance available for low-income enrollees for the remainder of 2004</p> | <p><b>August 3, 2004</b><br/>CMS publishes proposed rules for Medicare drug benefit &amp; Medicare Advantage pgm</p> | <p><b>October 4, 2004</b><br/>Deadline for submitting public comments on proposed rules to CMS</p> | <p><b>Fall 2004</b><br/>Social Security Administrator issues proposed rules regarding eligibility determinations for low-income subsidies</p> | <p><b>November 15-December 31, 2004</b><br/>Annual coordinated election period for 2005 enrollment in discount card program</p> |
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**December 2004**

U.S. Pharmacopeia submits final model guidelines for prescription drug categories and classes to CMS

**December 31, 2004**

Deadline for 2003 State Medicaid Statistical Information System reporting to be completed and accepted by CMS

**January 1, 2005**

- Deadline for CMS to announce prescription drug plan (PDP) and MA regions
- Deadline for CMS to release financing and solvency requirements for plans

**Jan. 1-Mar 31, 2005**

Low-income beneficiaries enrolling in Medicare discount card program this quarter receive full-year \$600 subsidy for 2005 (subsidy pro-rated for part-year enrollment for remainder of 2005)

**February 18, 2005**

Deadline for CMS to publish risk-adjustment methodology for determining 2006 payment rates

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| <b>January 1, 2005</b><br>•Deadline for CMS to announce presc. drug plan (PDP) & MA regions<br>•Deadline for CMS to release financing & solvency req's for plans   | <b>Jan 1-Mar 31, 2005</b><br>Low-income beneficiaries enrolling in Medicare discount card program this quarter receive full-year \$600 subsidy for 2005 (subsidy pro-rated for part-year enrollment for remainder of 2005) | <b>February 18, 2005</b><br>Deadline for CMS to publish risk-adjustment methodology for determining 2006 payment rates |   |   |  |   |

**Early 2005** CMS publishes final rules for Medicare drug benefit and MA program

**April 4, 2005** Deadline for Secretary to publish new risk payment rates for MA plans

**June 1, 2005** Deadline for CMS to approve PDP plan applications and MA service area expansions

**June 6, 2005** Deadline for submitting PDP and Medicare Advantage-prescription drug (MA-PD) plan bids to CMS

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**June 31, 2005** Deadline for CMS to “pre-qualify” bidders from eligible fallback entities for plans starting in 2006

**July 1, 2005** States begin accepting applications for Part D low-income subsidies

**July 1, 2005** Deadline for CMS to establish requirements and procedures for coordination between Part D plans and state pharmacy assistance programs and other insurers (Medicaid programs, group health plans, Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan, TRICARE [Department of Defense health care program])

**Sept 2005** CMS awards bids to PDP and MA-PD plans

**September 16—Nov 15, 2005:** Medigap issuers send written disclosures to policyholders with prescription drug coverage informing them of their options

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| <b>June 31, 2005</b><br>Deadline for CMS to "pre-qualify" bidders from eligible fallback entities for plans starting in 2006                                       | <b>July 1, 2005</b><br>States begin accepting applications for Part D low-income subsidies   | <b>July 1, 2005</b><br>Deadline for CMS to establish requirements and procedures for coordination between Part D plans and state pharmacy assistance programs and other insurers (Medicaid programs, group health plans, Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan, TRICARE [Department of Defense health care program]) | <b>September 2005</b><br>CMS awards bids to PDP and MA-PD plans   | <b>Sept 16--Nov 15, 2005</b><br>Medigap issuers send written disclosures to policyholders w/ presc. drug covg informing them of their options |  |   |

**Sept 30, 2005**      Deadline for plan sponsors to submit to CMS attestation of actuarial equivalence

**Sept 30, 2005**      Deadline for plan sponsors to apply for retiree drug subsidy payment for 2006

**Oct 1, 2005**      Deadline for transfer of responsibility for Medicare appeals from Social Security Administration to Department of Health and Human Services

**Oct 15, 2005**      Deadline for CMS to disseminate information comparing available Part D coverage to beneficiaries via mail and 1-800-MEDICARE

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| <b>Oct 1, 2005</b><br>Deadline for transfer of responsibility for Medicare appeals from Social Security Admin. to HHS  | <b>Oct 15, 2005</b><br>Deadline for CMS to disseminate information comparing available Part D coverage to beneficiaries via mail and 1-800-MEDICARE  | <b>October 15, 2005: Deadline for Secretary to notify states of their annual per capita drug payment amounts for 2006 ("clawback" for dual eligibles)</b>   |   |   |  |   |

***NOVEMBER 15, 2005- MAY 15, 2006: ANNUAL COORDINATED ELECTION PERIOD FOR 2006 PART D ENROLLMENT FOR ALL BENEFICIARIES***

**November 15, 2005:** Deadline for states and entities offering prescription drug coverage to provide written disclosure to Part D eligible individuals regarding actuarial equivalence

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| <b>June 31, 2005</b><br>Deadline for CMS to "pre-qualify" bidders from eligible entities for starting in | <b>July 1, 2005</b><br>States begin accepting applications for Part | <b>July 1, 2005</b><br>Deadline for CMS to establish requirements and procedures for coordination between Part D plans and state pharmacy assistance programs and other insurers | <b>September 2005</b><br>CMS awards bids to PDP | <b>Sept 16--Nov 15, 2005</b><br>Medigap issuers send written disclosures to policyholders w/ presc. | <b>Sept 30, 2005</b><br>Deadline for plan sponsors to submit to CMS | <b>Sept 30, 2005</b><br>Deadline for plan sponsors to apply for retiree |
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**December 31, 2005:**  
Medigap insurers prohibited from selling new policies with prescription drug coverage

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| <b>Oct 1, 2005</b><br>Deadline for transfer of responsibility for Medicare appeals from Social Security Admin. to HHS | <b>December 31, 2005:</b><br>•Medicare drug discount card program ends<br>•Medicaid prescription drug coverage ends for "full benefit" dual eligibles |
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**January 1, 2006**

- **PART D COVERAGE BEGINS FOR ALL BENEFICIARIES ENROLLED IN PDP or MA-PD**
- Retiree drug subsidy program begins
- States begin making monthly "clawback" payments to federal government for dual eligibles
- Low-income subsidies for Part D coverage begin
- Secretary to implement system for billing and benefit coordination for determining beneficiaries' true out-of-pocket (TrOOP) costs

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| <b>Jan 1, 2006</b><br>• <u>Part D coverage begins for all beneficiaries enrolled in PDP or MA-PD</u><br>•Low-income subsidies for Part D coverage begin<br>•Retiree drug subsidy program begins<br>•Secretary to implement system for billing and be coordination for determining benef' true out-of-p (TrOOP) costs<br>•States begin making monthly "clawback" federal government for dual eligibles |  |   | <b>Jan 1, 2006—Dec 2007: Moratorium on formation of new local Medicare preferred provider organizations</b>                           |  |   |   |   |
| <b>Jan 1—June 30, 2006: Open enrollment period for MA eligible individuals (during which they can change plans once)</b>  |  |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| <b>Oct 15, 2006: Deadline for Sec. to notify states of annual per capita drug payment amts for 2007 ("clawback" for dual eligibles)</b>   |  |   |   |  |   |   |   |

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**November 15, 2006:** Deadline for states and entities offering prescription drug coverage to provide written disclosures to Part D eligible individuals regarding actuarial equivalence

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Sec. to notify states annual per capita drug amounts for 2007 for dual eligibles)

**November 15-December 31, 2006:** Annual coordinated election period for 2007 Part D enrollment for all beneficiaries

So, in summary...

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| <b>June 2004</b><br>Medicare-approved drug discount card use begins; \$600 in transitional assistance available for low-income enrollees for the remainder of 2004  | <b>August 3, 2004</b><br>CMS publishes proposed rules for Medicare drug benefit & Medicare Advantage pgm   | <b>October 4, 2004</b><br>Deadline for submitting public comments on proposed rules to CMS  | <b>Fall 2004</b><br>Social Security Administrator issues proposed rules regarding eligibility determinations for low-income subsidies | <b>November 15-December 31, 2004</b><br>Annual coordinated election period for 2005 enrollment in discount card program   | <b>December 2004</b><br>US Pharmacopeia submits final model guidelines for prescription drug categories and classes to CMS                         | <b>December 31, 2004</b><br>Deadline for 2003 State Medicaid Statistical Information System reporting to be completed and accepted by CMS |   |
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| <b>Jan 1, 2006</b><br>•Part D coverage begins for all beneficiaries enrolled in PDP or MA-PD<br>•Low-income subsidies for Part D coverage begin<br>•Retiree drug subsidy program begins<br>•Secretary to implement system for billing and benefit coordination for determining benef' true out-of-pocket (TrOOP) costs<br>•States begin making monthly "clawback" payments to federal government for dual eligibles |  |   | <b>January 1, 2006 – December 2007</b><br>Moratorium on formation of new local Medicare preferred provider organizations              | <b>January 1- June 30, 2006</b><br>Open enrollment period for MA eligible individuals (during which they can change plans once)   | <b>Oct 15, 2006</b><br>Deadline for Sec. to notify states of their annual per capita drug payment amounts for 2007 ("clawback" for dual eligibles) |   |   |
|   |  |   |   | <b>Nov 15, 2006:</b> Deadline for states and entities offering prescription drug coverage to provide written disclosures to Part D eligible individuals regarding actuarial equivalence | <b>Nov 15-Dec 31, 2006</b> Annual coordinated election period for 2007 Part D enrollment for all beneficiaries                                     |   |   |