



CMS Medicare Part D Prescriber Enrollment Requirement

Important Notice:

Beginning **February 1, 2017**, CMS will enforce a requirement that Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit plans may not cover drugs prescribed by providers who are not enrolled in (or validly opted out of) Medicare. These new CMS rules will enable federal officials to better combat fraud and abuse in the Part D program through verification of providers' credentials via the Medicare enrollment/opt-out process. Providers must enroll in Medicare in order to prescribe drugs covered by a Medicare Advantage plan.

Attached is the notice from CMS to Medicare Prescribers with more details on this requirement.

What this Means for Providers:

Medicare Part D provider prescribers need to take action and enroll in or opt-out of Medicare as soon as possible. Delays in doing so could result in Medicare patients not being able to obtain drugs prescribed for them.

If you choose to opt out of Medicare, you will not be eligible to receive either direct or indirect reimbursement for items and services covered by traditional Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan, except in the case of emergency and urgent care services

Check Your Enrollment Status

- Start by verifying that your application has been submitted and is awaiting processing:
 - [Physician List](#)
 - [Non-Physician List](#)
- Check the [enrollment file](#) on the CMS website to confirm your enrollment status in the Medicare program following these [simple steps](#) on [how to enroll](#).

Enroll to Prescribe

- **Enroll Online:** Use [PECOS, the online application](#), to fast-track your enrollment. Our [how-to guide](#) is here to help.
- **Enroll Offline:** You may mail in your [paper application](#) instead.

Learn more about Opting-Out

- Physicians and practitioners may Opt-Out of Medicare and should review the [Part D prescriber enrollment Opt-Out information on the CMS website](#).
- Use this [decision matrix](#) to learn more about the impact of opting out. This will not only impact you, but it may affect your patients' ability to be covered.

Resources:

Visit go.cms.gov/PrescriberEnrollment for further information on this requirement and so that you can check your status, enroll in Medicare and for information on how to opt out of Medicare.

If you need assistance with the process of enrolling in (or validly opting out) of Medicare, please contact the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) within your geographic area. ([Locate the MAC that services your geographic area.](#))

**Important official message for providers
who prescribe drugs for Medicare patients.**



ENROLL IN MEDICARE AS A PROVIDER NOW!

Dear Prescriber. You have been identified as a provider who currently prescribes drugs for Medicare patients, but who is not enrolled in (or validly opted-out of) Medicare. **Because of a new Medicare requirement, it is crucial for your patients' health that you enroll in Medicare to prescribe (or validly opt out, if appropriate) as soon as possible.** Please follow the below steps. A delay on your part could result in your Medicare patients not being able to obtain drugs you prescribe for them.

What's changed & when?

We have published rules that will soon require nearly all providers (for example, dentists, physicians, psychiatrists, residents, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants), including Medicare Advantage providers, who prescribe drugs for Part D patients to enroll in Medicare (or validly opt out, if appropriate). In the near future, we will enforce a requirement that Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit plans may not cover drugs prescribed by providers who are not enrolled in (or validly opted out of) Medicare, except in very limited circumstances.

Why is this important to my patients and me?

Unless you enroll (or validly opt out), Medicare Part D plans will be required to notify your Medicare patients that the Part D drugs you prescribe cannot continue to be covered. Please also note that if you opt out, you cannot receive reimbursement from traditional Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan, either directly or indirectly (except for emergency and urgent care services; see 42 CFR 405.440 for details.)

What steps do I need to take?

To help your Medicare patients, please enroll in Medicare for the limited purpose of prescribing Part D drugs. There are no fees to complete the process. You can do so electronically or on paper:

1. *Electronic process:* Use the PECOS system at go.cms.gov/pecos. For limited enrollment, we recommend using the step-by-step instructions at go.cms.gov/PECOSsteps and a video tutorial at Go.cms.gov/PECOSVideo; or
2. *Paper process:* Complete the paper application for limited enrollment at go.cms.gov/cms855o and submit it to the MAC in your geographic area. To locate your MAC, please refer to the MAC list at: go.cms.gov/partdmaclist.

If you need assistance with the process of enrolling in (or validly opting out) of Medicare, please contact the MAC within your geographic area.

Thank you for your prompt and careful attention to this important matter, and for serving Medicare beneficiaries. These new CMS rules will enable federal officials to better combat fraud and abuse in the Part D program through verification of providers' credentials via the Medicare enrollment/opt-out process.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

QUESTIONS? NEED ASSISTANCE?

Please contact CMS at **providerenrollment@cms.hhs.gov** if you have questions about this letter, you do not prescribe drugs, or if you believe that:

- You are already enrolled in (or validly opted out of) Medicare.
- You have a pending application.
- You are not eligible to enroll in Medicare (for example, you are a pharmacist).

If you need assistance with the process of enrolling in (or validly opting out) of Medicare, please contact the MAC within your geographic area. To locate your MAC, please refer to the MAC list on the CMS website at: go.cms.gov/partdmaclist.

Please visit the CMS Part D Prescriber Enrollment website at go.cms.gov/PrescriberEnrollment for helpful information about the new requirement, such as resources to check your application status, or to sign up for the listserv to receive updates.

Background Information

The Medicare program is administered by the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare (CMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Medicare program is divided into four parts: 1) Part A generally covers inpatient hospital services; 2) Part B generally covers physician services; 3) Part C (Medicare Advantage) refers to Medicare-approved private health insurance plans for individuals enrolled in Parts A and B; and 4) Part D covers the cost of most prescription medications.

The Part D prescriber enrollment rules referred to in this notice are CMS-4159-F *Medicare Program; Contract Year 2015 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs* (79 FR 29843; May 23, 2014); and CMS-6107-IFC *Medicare Program; Changes to the Requirements for Part D Prescribers* (80 FR 25958; May 6, 2015).