

5 Steps to Enroll Yourself in Medicare Part D 2009



Alaska's Senior Information Office – 800-478-6065

1) Begin Computerized Search Part D Prescription Drug Plans

- Go to www.medicare.gov
- Click on “Compare Medicare Prescription Drug Plans” (at ½ page below Search Tools)
- Click “Find & Compare Plans” (gray button in upper left blue box)
- Click “Begin General Search” (gray button in blue box on right)
- Enter your Zip Code; answer 4 questions in blue boxes; click “Continue” button
- Read Review Current Coverage and Consider Options page; click Continue button

2) Enter Your Medications

- Click “Enter My Drugs” gray button (in blue box on left)
- Enter Drug Name in box provided and press enter on your keyboard (avoid Search button)
- If drug appears in the “select” box press click cursor over it; press “Add Selected to Your Drug List”
- Place cursor in Enter Drug Name box, write 2nd or 3rd (etc.) drug name and press enter on keyboard
- If drug appears in the “select” box press to highlight it; press “Add Selected to Your Drug List” button
- Click off the check mark on “Use lower cost generic drugs when available”
- Click “Continue” button
- Change the mg. amounts and quantities if necessary; then click “Continue”
- Click “Skip This Step” button near security password
- Click a dot into “Yes” to select your preferred pharmacy; click “Continue”
- Preferred pharmacy not listed? Select 6.75 miles in the” pull down menu; click “Update List”
- Select two pharmacies; click “Continue”

3) Compare Plans for Best-Fit

- Select 3 plans per your criteria: Annual Cost, Premium, Deductible, LIS-eligible (only 7 plans in Alaska for “Extra Help”)
- Click “Compare” button under the plan selection boxes to view results
- Review “Drug Coverage Information” and “Full Cost of Drugs” at bottom of screen
- ❶ Select “View Plan Detail” in pull down “More Information” box up under Company Name; click “Go”
- ❷ Review Drug Coverage Information—“Yes” in Quantity Limits (usually 1/day) may be OK; “Yes” in Prior Authorization or Step Therapy creates many difficulties for patients & doctors
- ❸ Review Total Monthly Cost Estimator graph at bottom of screen; bar graph shows when the ‘donut hole’ begins and how many months you can expect to pay full price for drugs.
- ❹ Click “Return To Plan List” button under Cost Estimator graph to avoid losing your input
- Repeat bullets with ❶ to ❹ for all plans you wish to compare thoroughly

4) Select the Best-Fit Part D Plan

- Select the plan that best combines several factors:
 - Plan approved for Low-Income Subsidy or Extra Help if you are Medicaid or QMB-eligible
 - Plan that includes all or most of your medications on their formulary
 - Plan with the fewest limitations such as Step Therapy or Prior Authorization
 - Plan with good cost structure (eg. low deductible, lowest premium, shortest donut hole)

5) Enrolling—3 Easy Ways

- Click the “Enroll” button and enter your personal information as the screens pop up
- Or phone the plan you select and they will enroll you
- Or phone 1-800-Medicar(e) anytime days, nights, weekends; Medicare will assist you