

HELP AND INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE:

**Call 1-800-MEDICARE * TTY users, call 1-877-486-2048
You can also contact a HICAP counselor at 1-800-434-0222.**

Beginning January 1, 2006, your drug coverage will change.

You must belong to a Medicare prescription drug plan to get coverage for your prescriptions.

☐MEDI-CAL WILL NO LONGER COVER YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS☐

If you are on no-cost Medi-Cal and Medicare, you will get extra help automatically through Medicare to help pay your premiums and deductibles for all of 2006. You will pay a copayment from \$1 to \$5 for each prescription you get. If you are in long-term care facility, you will pay nothing.

In October, prescription drug plans will start advertising. Medicare will automatically place you in a plan and will send you an information letter telling you about your new drug plan. If you receive help with your Medicare costs only, then you will have to enroll in a plan to receive prescription drugs on January 1, 2006. Beginning November 15, 2005, you may change or enroll in drug plans by calling the plan that you want to be in and they will help you. Keep all of your information in one place.

For help in picking a Medicare prescription drug plan:

- Ask your pharmacy which plans they accept.
- Talk to your doctor about which plans work best with the prescriptions you take.
- Call a Medicare HICAP counselor at 1-800-434-0222. The counselor can help you choose a Medicare drug plan.

If you belong to a Medicare Advantage Plan (HMO), you will get your drugs from that drug plan or one with similar coverage. Medicare will send you a letter about your new drug plan.

If you get your drug coverage from an employer-sponsored or pension fund-sponsored health plan, contact your employer or pension fund benefits manager for more information on how this change may affect you.

Extra help will be available (also called a Limited Income Subsidy)

If you have Medi-Cal with a share-of-cost and you *meet* that share-of-cost in any month between 3/1/05 and 12/31/05, then you will automatically get the extra help for all of 2006. You will also be automatically placed into a Medicare prescription drug plan.

If you have Medi-Cal with a share-of-cost and you *have not met* the share-of-cost, then you will need to call the Medicare drug plan of your choice. You can apply for the extra help over the phone by calling Social Security at 1-800-772-1213, or apply over the Internet at: www.socialsecurity.gov.

