

# PAPs and Medicare Part D

Many PAPs are claiming it is illegal to continue to help Medicare beneficiaries that enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

**This is not true!**

A PAP can continue to help a Medicare beneficiary that enrolls in a Medicare Part D prescription Drug plan. The government does not prevent companies from providing this assistance to people that enroll in Medicare Part D.

## **What are PAPs?**

PAPs are “Patient Assistance Programs.” They are offered by pharmaceutical companies and provide free medications for people with lower incomes.

**My PAP says they do not offer the program for people with prescription insurance or for anyone with Medicare, can they do that?**

Yes, PAPs make their own policies. Many PAPs have a policy of not assisting people that have prescription insurance. If the PAP wanted to, it could change its policies and allow people with Medicare Part D to also receive assistance from the Patient Assistance Program.

**If I can keep my PAP and I enroll in Medicare Part D, how do they work together?**

The assistance the PAP provides would work outside your Medicare Part D benefits. Any help you receive would not count towards your Medicare Part D out of pocket expenditures (sometimes called “TrOOP” or True Out Of Pocket) and would not help you get out of the donut hole.

**I’m thinking of enrolling in a Medicare part D plan but my PAP will end if I do. Is there anything I can do about it?**

You can call and write your elected representatives and the pharmaceutical company. Do some research and tell them how much you would have to pay for your prescriptions if you enrolled in Medicare Part D. You can also call your local news agency and tell them your story.

## **Where can I find more information about PAPs?**

If you are interested in receiving help paying for your prescriptions:

You may qualify for Extra Help with Social Security to help you pay for a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. Contact your local Social Security office, go to [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), or call 1(800)772-1213 for more information.

If you do not qualify for extra help and your prescriptions are too expensive under Medicare Part D, you may be able to find a PAP to help you with some of your prescriptions so that you can afford to keep your Medicare Part D coverage. For more information about PAPs:

- Partnership for Prescription Assistance: 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669) [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org).
- NeedyMeds: [www.needymeds.com](http://www.needymeds.com)

## **Where can I find more information about Medicare Part D and other prescription assistance?**

If you live in Wisconsin, you can call one of the helplines below:

- If you are age 60 or older call the Prescription Drug Helpline at 1(866) 456-8211
- If you are under age 60 call the Disability Drug Benefit Helpline at 1(800) 926-4862

If you live outside of Wisconsin, call 1800MEDICARE and ask for the number for your SHIP helpline.

To find contact information for your representatives click here

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/waml/>