

## **Medi-Cal Emergency Drug Coverage For People with Medi-Cal and Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Has Been Extended**

### **What Is The Emergency Drug Benefit And Who Is Covered?**

The Emergency Drug Benefit is for people who have both Medicare and Medi-Cal. It has been extended through January 31, 2007. The Emergency Drug Benefit will ensure that people are able to get their Medicare Part D covered prescription drugs. The Emergency Drug Benefit will cover the cost of your medication(s) when your Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan is not able to pay for your prescription(s) even though the pharmacist has followed all the required steps of the billing process.

### **What Can I Do To Get The Emergency Drug Benefit?**

If you are having trouble getting your prescriptions paid for at the pharmacy by your Part D plan or you are being asked to pay more than \$5 per prescription, you should:

- Show your Medi-Cal card AND Medicare drug plan card (or Medicare drug plan letter) to the pharmacist.
- Bring a copy of this notice with you to give to the pharmacist.
- Ask the pharmacist to go to the Medi-Cal website, [www.medi-cal.ca.gov](http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov) or call 1-800-541-5555, to obtain the provider bulletin about the emergency drug benefit.
- If you have already paid more than \$5 for a prescription, you will need to call your Part D Prescription Drug Plan and ask for a refund.

### **How Does The Emergency Drug Benefit Work?**

Pharmacies must submit a paper treatment authorization request form to the Medi-Cal Pharmacy Field Office. Before Medi-Cal will approve payment of your medicine, your pharmacist will need to say what steps he or she tried in order to bill your Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan.

*Your pharmacist can get the new California Department of Health Services provider bulletin with the new billing instructions online at [www.medi-cal.ca.gov](http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov) or by calling 1-800-541-5555.*

### **What Should I Do If The Pharmacist Says That My Medicare Part D Plan Does Not Cover The Drug My Doctor Prescribed?**

If your Part D plan does not cover your drugs, ask your doctor to prescribe a plan-covered drug. You can also ask your doctor to help you complete an exception request to get the drug covered. Contact your drug plan for more information on the exception and appeal process. You also have the right to change plans at any time to one that more closely meets your prescription drug needs.

*If you need help with Medicare Part D, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).  
You can also call your local HICAP office at 1-800-434-0222.*