



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
25 SIGOURNEY STREET * HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

November 20, 2008

IMPORTANT ConnPACE NOTICE
Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Period: November 15 – December 31, 2008

Dear ConnPACE Client:

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan Open Enrollment

The 2009 Medicare Part D open enrollment period begins on November 15, 2008, and ends December 31, 2008. The open enrollment period is an opportunity for you to change your Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) with coverage under the new plan beginning January 1, 2009. **As a ConnPACE client, if you have Medicare Part A and/or Part B, you must be enrolled in a Medicare Part D PDP as a condition of maintaining your ConnPACE eligibility.** As in previous years, ConnPACE will continue to coordinate benefits with the federal Medicare Part D program in 2009.

Your current plan may have mailed you an Annual Notice of Coverage (ANOC) that details how your plan may be changing for the 2009 calendar year. The ANOC will provide you with information on any changes in the monthly premiums, copays, and formulary. If you intend to enroll in a new Medicare PDP, it is important to consider if your current prescriptions will be covered with the potential PDP you choose for 2009 and how the new coverage will work. The CHOICES program is available to assist you in determining the most appropriate PDP to fit your prescription drug needs. You can call the CHOICES program at 1-800-994-9422 with any questions you may have.

ConnPACE Benefits/Costs

As a guide to a cost-effective monthly premium, the Medicare Part D Connecticut regional benchmark premium for 2009 is \$31.74. While ConnPACE will pay your Medicare Part D premium even if it exceeds the regional benchmark, you should always be aware of the cost to the state for that premium. If your current Medicare Part D premium is above \$31.74, ConnPACE strongly encourages you to consider enrolling in a benchmark plan for 2009, as the benefits provided by all plans are comparable. Again, if you choose to change plans or want to select a plan under the benchmark, CHOICES is available to assist you in determining the most appropriate PDP to fit your needs for 2009.

It is also important to know that whatever plan you are enrolled in, ConnPACE will work with **all** PDPs in providing 'wrap-around' coverage including monthly premium assistance and paying costs that exceed the ConnPACE co-payment of \$16.25. While ConnPACE also provides coverage of non-formulary drugs through an exception process, you should always ask your physician if there is an appropriate formulary alternative to those medications not covered by your PDP. By prescribing formulary medications, your physician's administrative burden will be reduced, he/she will not have to complete paperwork to justify the non-formulary medications and; in the long run, it will simplify your pharmacist's workload when filling your prescriptions. If your physician does not know what drugs are on the PDP's formulary, he/she can check the formulary by going into the website for your PDP.

As a reminder, the ConnPACE program will only cover your prescriptions if they are filled at pharmacies enrolled in the Connecticut Medical Assistance Programs. If you plan on using a mail-order or an out-of-state pharmacy, it is important to research whether or not the particular pharmacy is enrolled as a CT

provider prior to filling your prescriptions there. If you bring prescriptions to a pharmacy and are told that they are unable to bill the ConnPACE program, this is a good indicator that the pharmacy is not enrolled as a CT provider.

You will continue to be responsible for the ConnPACE annual enrollment fee of \$30.00.

Low Income Subsidies (LIS)

Many people with limited income and assets get extra help paying for their prescription drug coverage. Medicare notifies those individuals who automatically qualify for this extra help, and the Social Security Administration (SSA) sends applications to others they feel may qualify. If you get an application from SSA in the mail, please fill it out and mail it in the postage paid envelope included. If you do not receive an application in the mail from SSA but think you may qualify for the “extra help,” contact SSA by phone or visit the SSA website to apply for the “extra help” benefit. If you qualify for the “extra help” benefit, your co-pays can be even lower than the \$16.25 ConnPACE co-pay.

Below are some important phone numbers and websites that may be useful to you in answering questions about the ConnPACE program, Medicare Part D benefit, the “extra help” benefit through the Social Security Administration, and more.

Important and helpful contact information:

ORGANIZATION	PHONE	WEBSITE
CHOICES	1-800-994-9422	www.ct.gov/agingservices
MEDICARE	1-800-633-4227	www.medicare.gov
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION	1-800-772-1213	www.ssa.gov
ConnPACE	1-800-423-5026 or 860-269-2029 (local)	www.connpace.com or www.ct.gov/dss

2009 Medicare Part D Benchmark Plans:

Medicare Part D PDP Company	Medicare D PDP Name	PDP Phone Number
Bravo Health	BravoRx	1-877-504-7252
CIGNA Medicare Rx	Cigna Medicare Rx Plan One	1-800-222-6700
EnvisionRx Plus	EnvisionRxPlus Silver	1-866-250-2005
First Health Part D	First Health Part D-Premier	1-866-865-0662
Health Net	Health Net Orange Option 1	1-800-806-8811
HealthSpring PDP	HealthSpring PDP-Reg 2	1-800-331-6293
Medco Medicare Prescription Plan	Medicare Prescription Plan-Value	1-800-758-4574
Pennsylvania Life Insurance Co.	Prescriba Rx Bronze	1-800-818-0007
RxAmerica	Advantage Star Plan	1-800-429-6686
SilverScript Insurance Company	SilverScript Value	1-866-552-6106
UniCare	MedicareRx Rewards Standard	1-800-928-6201
United Healthcare	AARP MedicareRx Saver	1-888-867-5575

If you would prefer to receive a copy of this letter in Spanish, please call ConnPACE at 1-800-423-5026 or 1-860-269-2029

Si prefieres recibir una copia de esta carta en Español, por favor de llamar a ConnPACE a 1-800-423-5026 o 1-860-269-2029.

