

Cane Creek Script

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Medicare Part D

Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) is available to everyone with Medicare. To get Medicare drug coverage, you must join a Medicare drug plan. Plans vary in cost and drugs covered.

Two types of plans offer Medicare prescription drug coverage:

Medicare Prescription Drug Plans. These plans (sometimes called "PDPs") add drug coverage to Original Medicare, some Medicare Cost Plans, some Medicare Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS) Plans, and Medicare Medical Savings Account (MSA) Plans.

Medicare Advantage Plans (like an HMO or PPO) are other Medicare health plans that offer Medicare prescription drug coverage. You get all of your Part A and Part B coverage, and prescription drug coverage (Part D), through these plans. Medicare Advantage Plans with prescription drug coverage are sometimes called "MA-PDs."

Who Can Get Medicare Drug Coverage?

To join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan, you must have Medicare Part A and/or Part B. To get prescription drug coverage through a Medicare Advantage Plan, you must have Part A and Part B.

Choosing a Part D Plan

www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan
Council On Aging

Enrollment

November 15th- December 31st

During this period, you may also switch to another plan.

Patients that are Dual-Eligible and have Medicaid coverage, may switch plans at any time.

Gap Coverage (also known as the Donut Hole)

Most Medicare drug plans have a coverage gap. This means that after you and your plan have spent a certain amount of money for covered drugs, you have to pay all costs out-of-pocket for your drugs (up to a limit). Most plans start at \$2840.00 and ends at \$4550.00. In 2011, if you go into the Donut Hole you will get a 50% discount on the name brand drugs. Patients that go into the Donut Hole typically have more than five chronic diseases. Patients that are Dual-eligible and have Medicaid do not have a Donut Hole. Some plans offer coverage during this period but the monthly premiums are higher.

Plan Deductibles

Some Part D plans have deductibles that did not in 2010. These deductibles must be met before insurance starts paying on drug costs.

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Medicare Part D continued

Medications not covered by Part D plans

- Barbiturates
- Benzodiazepines
- Weight Loss Products
- Weight Gain Products
- Hair Growth Products
- Cough & Cold Products
- Prescription Vitamins
- Over the Counter Medications
- Fertility Drugs
- Medications covered by Part A or B

Catastrophic coverage

Once the plan’s out-of pocket limit is reached, you automatically get “catastrophic coverage.” Catastrophic coverage assures that once you have spent up to your plan’s out-of-pocket limit for covered drugs, you only pay a small coinsurance amount or co-payment for the drug for the rest of the year.

www.medicare.gov

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Electronic Medication Records

Cane Creek Pharmacy is excited to partner with Creative Strategies to offer Accu-flo, an electronic medication administration record. Accu-flo is a server-based medication administration system designed for use in institutional pharmacies, assisted living, long-term care, and rehab facilities. The software automates the process of distributing, tracking, and re-ordering medications and treatments safely and efficiently for residential care facilities and pharmacies.

After many months of research and with help from Deerfield Retirement Community, we have chosen this eMAR system because of its reputation and ease of use. By the end of the year we should have this system in use at Deerfield Retirement Community in their skilled unit.

If you are interested in learning more about this electronic MAR, please contact Lori McAdams to schedule an on-line demonstration.



“Our clinical team had been evaluating electronic Med Pass systems for several years now, wanting to make the best choice for our facility, staff and of course the residents! With each system we considered the pros and cons, the ease of use and forward thinking technology - seeming to always come back to the Accu-flo product. We are excited to now be partnering with Cane Creek Pharmacy as they begin implementation of Accu-flow in our 62 bed Skilled facility. The staff is also excited about this new program. The benefits we see to our facility are better time management, less time spent on the actual med pass process, more time for resident care, reduction in medication errors and increased communication from facility to pharmacy leading to faster turn around time with medication changes and additions. This will be an exciting adventure for us!”

*Linda Mechling, RN, NHA
 Director of Health and Wellness
 Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community*

Pharmacy Happenings

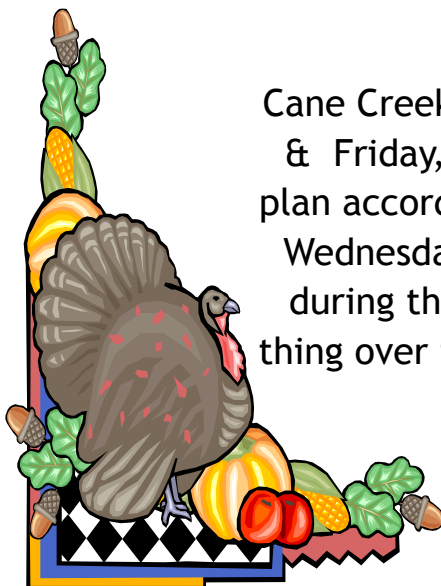
Tiffany & Philip Kennedy, both Certified Pharmacy Technicians at Cane Creek Pharmacy are expecting the birth of their first child in early December. Their daughter, Lydia Ann is due to make her entrance into the world December 1, 2010. Tiffany will be on maternity leave for three months after her birth.



We have two new additions to our Cane Creek Staff. Nicole Nichols, CPhT and Vibhuti (Vee) Carmichael, RPH. Nicole is a certified pharmacy technician that will be working in data entry department. She will be taking Tiffany's place while she is on maternity leave and will work closely with our cycle fill and Opus facilities. Nicole has been a pharmacy technician since 2000. She also has worked as a Medication Aide in assisted living facilities in the area. Nicole has a six year son, Clay, and is getting married on November 20, 2010.

Vee is a Registered Pharmacist. She is a native of India and has lived in the United States since 1973. Vee is a graduated of MVSC college of Pharmacy at Charleston, South Carolina. Vee has worked in Columbia, SC in the retail setting for 20 years. She along with her husband, Mike, and their five year old daughter Priya recently relocated to Asheville. Vee enjoys traveling & experiencing new cultures. Her family is enjoying the wonderful cultural aspects and restaurants in Asheville.

We are excited to have both Nicole and Vee as part of the Cane Creek team!



Cane Creek Pharmacy will be closed on Thursday, November 25th & Friday, November 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday. Please plan accordingly and have all refills into the pharmacy by 2pm on Wednesday November 24th. We will have a pharmacist on call during this time for emergency needs only. If you need something over the holidays, you must call the pharmacy and have the on-call pharmacist paged.

Happy Thanksgiving!



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.canecreekpharmacy.com

Medication Allergies

A drug allergy occurs when your immune system reacts to a medication. A number of drugs can cause a drug allergy, including prescription and over-the-counter medications. The most common signs of a drug allergy are hives, rash or fever. You can have an allergic reaction to a drug even if it caused no reaction in the past.

Most allergic reactions start immediately after taking a drug. However, it is possible to develop an allergic reaction to a medication after you have been on it for up to several weeks. Drug allergy symptoms include skin rash, hives (urticaria), fever, facial swelling, shortness of breath, dizziness, up to anaphylaxis which is a life-threatening reaction.

If you have an allergic reaction to a drug, your immune system responds to the drug as a harmful invader. This causes the release of histamine and other chemicals that cause allergic symptoms. Your immune system then becomes keyed to react the same way if you take the drug again in the future. However, the immune system changes over time, and eventually it is possible your drug allergy may go away on its own.

A drug allergy occurs when your immune system mistakenly identifies a drug as if it were a harmful substance instead of a helpful remedy. Your immune system then creates antibodies to attack the medication. Chemicals released by these antibodies cause the signs and symptoms associated with an allergic reaction.



Please ensure that the pharmacy has complete & accurate allergy information for all residents. This will allow our pharmacists to double check for any allergy cross sensitivities and prevent allergic reactions.