

Information Sources

2006 Medicare Medical Benefit & Prescription Drug Plan Options

The 2006 Medicare Advantage Plans (Part C) replaces Parts A & B and expands medical benefit coverages along with new Part D Prescription Drug coverages. Below is a list of resources to help you make an informed decision for 2006.

2006 Medicare options

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE
- Or call the Santa Cruz HICAP Counseling Office at (831) 462-5510
- Visit www.medicare.gov or www.calmedicare.org/counseling/santacruz.html

Medicare Handbook

- Clear & comprehensive handbook "Medicare & You 2006" at www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/10050.pdf

Medicare's only HMO Options in Santa Cruz County (Part C)

- Call Secure Horizons Customer Service at either (800) 698-7505 or (800) 228-2144
- Visit www.calmedicare.org/hmos/index.html

Low Income Medicare patient options

- Visit www.calmedicare.org/lowincome/index.html

Patients with both Medicare and Medi-Cal coverages

- Visit www.calmedicare.org/changes/partd-both.html

Medicare Prescription Drug Program (the new Part D Benefits for 2006)

- Visit www.calmedicare.org/changes/partd.html
- To read about the Part D Drug Program in the CMS publication, "Medicare & You 2006" visit www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/10050.pdf and on the Sutter Health web site at www.sutterhealth.org/md_partd.html

Drug Formularies

- To find out if your prescription drugs are covered under the Drug Formularies available under the specific Medicare Plan Option that you are considering, visit http://plancompare.medicare.gov/formularyfinder/selectState_Inter.asp?vid=4799341&plan_specific=Fa&language=English Follow prompts and type in your prescription drugs to see if the Plan you are considering lists your drugs in the formulary. You will also see data on prior authorization requirements and drug co-payment information.

Medicare Private Fee for Service (PFFS) Plan options available in Santa Cruz County

- Call the State Health Insurance Assistance Program at (800) 434-0222
- Visit the Medicare Personal Plan Finder and select Medicare Advantage Plan at http://www.medicare.gov/MPPF/Include/DataSection/Questions/Welcome.asp?version=default&browser=IE%7C6%7CWin2000&language=English&year=2006&defaultstatus=1&pagelist=Home&user=&MPDPF_zip

Your SCMF Physician is not trained in all the details of the many 2006 Medicare Plan Options. As a result, your doctor is not the best resource to make this important decision. We strongly encourage you to use these resources and ask your family members to assist you to get the information you need to make the best choice that fits your needs.