



State of Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

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Helene Nelson, Secretary
Department of Health and Family Services
1 W. Wilson Street, Room 650
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Secretary Nelson:

At our meeting in October, the Council on Physical Disabilities learned about a new prescription drug restriction for people who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid (“dual-eligibles”). A brief summary of the issue, prepared by the Office of Independence and Employment, is enclosed.

Under the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, all Medicare beneficiaries — including dual-eligibles — will be entitled to receive coverage for outpatient prescription drugs by enrolling in a Medicare Part D plan. Prescription drug coverage through Medicaid will end for those individuals who are also eligible for Medicare.

Dual-eligibles who require a drug that is not covered by the Part D plan will have to pay the entire cost of the drug themselves. This is particularly worrisome for people with disabilities whose medication is not included in the Medicare formulary.

The Council hopes you or your representative can attend our meeting in Madison on January 28, 2005 to discuss the Department’s plans to implement Part D. We would like to assure as much coverage as possible for Wisconsin’s low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

JorJan Borlin
Chairperson