

HELP WITH MEDICAL CARE & PRESCRIPTIONS FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE MEDICARE BUT NOT MEDICAID

The Medicaid income limits for Aged, Blind and Disabled persons are \$903 per month for one person and \$1,215 per month for a couple. Those limits will increase in 2010. If you have unearned income (like Social Security), \$20 of that income is not counted. If you or your spouse has earned income, over half of that income is not counted. Persons who got SSI benefits in the past may be able to get Medicaid with a higher income. Also, disabled persons who work part-time can have income up to twice the above limits. Children may be able to get Medicaid even if their families have higher incomes than these limits.

Some benefits and services are available to help access medical care and prescriptions for persons who do not have Medicaid but have Medicare. Below is a brief description of those programs. Call the phone numbers below to find out more about these programs.

How do I meet a Medicaid deductible?

A deductible is met the day that the total amount of your medical expenses paid equals the deductible amount that the Department of Social Services says you must meet every six months. You can meet your deductible with any medical bills you owe for yourself; your spouse, or your minor child. Medicaid will not pay the medical bills used to meet your deductible. Call Social Services at (704) 336-3150 for more information.

What is the MQB program?

This program is available for Medicare recipients who are over income for regular Medicaid. This is a special Medicaid program that pays Medicare Part B premiums. To be eligible, a single person can have unearned income of \$1,219 per month in 2009; a married couple can have unearned income of \$1,640 per month. You can apply for this program at the Department of Social Services at: 301 Billingsley Road/ Charlotte, NC 28211. The telephone number is: (704) 336-3150.

What is the Medicare drug benefit?

People who receive Medicare are eligible to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. To enroll in a plan, call 1-800-MEDICARE or 1-800-443-9354. To avoid penalties, you should enroll in a plan before December 31, 2009.

Medicare recipients with countable incomes under 150% of poverty (\$1354 unearned income per month in 2009 for 1 person, \$1,822 per month for a couple) are eligible for **Extra Help** (also called LIS) to help pay their premiums, copayments, and deductibles for Medicare drug coverage (Part D). If you receive MQB benefits, you are already signed up for LIS (Extra Help). If not, you can apply for this assistance at Social Services or Social Security.

What is the NC RX Program?

NCRx is a program that will pay up to \$29 of your Medicare Part D Premium per month. To be eligible for NCRx you must be a North Carolina resident age 65 or older and receiving Medicare. You are eligible if your annual income is at or below \$18,952 for individuals and \$25,497 for married couples. Your resources, such as savings, investments and real estate, cannot exceed \$22,092 for individuals and \$33,139 for married couples. Note: your house, car, and certain other expenses are not included in the calculation of your resources.

Call 1-888-488-NCRX (6279) or visit <http://www.ncrx.gov/> to get an application.