



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Attention Prescribers

August 2012

Effective **January 1, 2013**, many Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program benefits will be restored. This notice provides information about these changes and how they may affect your patients.

- EPIC eligibility remains the same. You must
 - ✓ be a resident of New York State 65 or older
 - ✓ have annual income up to \$35,000 if single or \$50,000 if married, and
 - ✓ may have a Medicaid Spend down but not receiving full Medicaid benefits.
- **EPIC members must be enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan in order to receive EPIC benefits.**
- EPIC will reinstate its Fee and Deductible Plans.
- EPIC will provide secondary coverage for EPIC and Medicare Part D covered drugs after any Part D and/or EPIC deductible is met.
- EPIC co-payments for covered drugs will continue to be \$3 - \$20, depending on the cost of the drug.
- EPIC will continue to cover many Medicare Part D excluded drugs, such as prescription vitamins and prescription cough and cold preparations.
- EPIC will continue to pay Medicare Part D premiums, up to the amount of a basic plan, for members in the Fee and Deductible plans with income up to \$23,000 (single) or \$29,000 (married).
- EPIC will also lower the EPIC deductible, by the annual cost of a basic Medicare Part D drug plan, for members with higher incomes that are responsible for paying their own Medicare Part D premium.

If your patients are currently receiving drugs that are not on their Part D formularies, please discuss alternative drug therapies that will be covered by their Part D plans in 2013. Prescribing drugs on the Medicare Part D formulary will maximize coverage and reduce your patients' out of pocket expenses.

EPIC has included a copy of the letter sent to members explaining these program changes. If you have patients who have questions about how these changes will affect them, please have them contact the **EPIC Participant Helpline at (800) 332-3742**.

If you have any questions or require further assistance please contact the **EPIC Provider Helpline at (800) 634-1340**.