

**Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Parris N. Glendening, Governor - Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., Secretary

**MARYLAND PHARMACY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Pharmacy Transmittal No. 166

September 26, 2002

**TO:** Pharmacists *Susan J. Tucker*

**FROM:** Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director  
Office of Health Services

**NOTE:** Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

**RE:** **Important Changes** to Pharmacy Benefits for Recipients in the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program

This transmittal is to inform you about a major change in the pharmacy benefit for recipients in the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program.

**Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program (MPAP)-Expanded Coverage Effective October 1, 2002**

Under the Maryland Pharmacy Waiver recently approved by the federal government, MPAP beneficiaries and Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs) will have access to the same drug coverage available under the Medicaid fee-for-service program. The QMB population currently has a gray and white card. They will also be sent a yellow and white MPAP card. Both cards will have the same identification number that can be used in the EVS and Point of Sale (POS) systems. A \$5 co-payment will be required for both populations. Under this program only, pharmacies are not required to fill prescriptions for MPAP and QMB recipients unable to pay the co-payment. The notice being sent to recipients is enclosed for your further information.

Questions concerning this transmittal should be directed to the Division of Pharmacy and Clinic Services at 410-767-1455.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR MARYLAND PHARMACY ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

On **October 1, 2002** the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program (MPAP) is making two (2) changes that are important to you:

You will now be able to get many prescription medicines that were not covered before. However, over-the-counter medicines, supplies (such as diabetes test strips) or services, are still NOT covered. The co-pay for all prescriptions is \$5.00. If you have been taking a prescription that was not covered in the past, check with your pharmacist. He or she will be able to tell you if this drug is now covered.

Remember, this new coverage does not begin until **October 1, 2002**. MPAP will not pay for medicines you bought before that date.

- 2 If you are a current Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) you will keep your Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program (MPAP) benefits for as long as you have QMB. You will not have to return an MPAP application to renew MPAP benefits each year. However, if, for any reason, your QMB benefit ends, your MPAP benefit will also end. You will then have to submit a written MPAP application and meet all eligibility requirements to continue your MPAP benefit.

Because we mail renewal applications two months ahead, some QMB recipients may have already received the renewal for October or November 2002. Remember, if you have QMB on or after October 1, 2002, you do not have to return this application.

### Important Note for Spouses and Other Family Members

Only the QMB recipient is automatically eligible for MPAP. Your spouse or other family members who do not have QMB must continue to submit an MPAP application and meet all eligibility requirements to continue to receive pharmacy benefits.