



MARYLAND PHARMACY PROGRAM

Medicaid - Pharmacy Assistance – Pharmacy Discount

No. 1

Thursday, March 18, 2004

ADVISORY

In an effort to give timely notice to the pharmacy community concerning important pharmacy topics, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) *Maryland Pharmacy Program* (MPP) has developed the **Maryland Pharmacy Program Advisory**. To expedite timely information to the pharmacy community, an email network has been established which incorporates the email lists of the Maryland Pharmacists Association, EPIC, and headquarters of all chain drugstores. It is our hope that the information is disseminated to all interested parties. If you have not received this email through the previously noted parties or via DHMH, please contact the MPP representative at 410-767-5395.

CHANGE IN PHARMACY ASSISTANCE CO-PAY

Effective October 1, 2003, the co payment for prescriptions under the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program changed from \$5 per prescription to a two-tiered co-payment structure. **The new co-payment is \$7.50 per prescription for brand name drugs and \$2.50 per prescription for generic drugs.** Since the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program is part of a demonstration waiver under the federal Medicaid Program, pharmacies are not required to fill prescriptions for recipients unable to pay the co-payment. The Program is in the process of establishing a Preferred Drug List. When the Preferred Drug List goes into effect, the co-payment for brand name drugs on the preferred drug list will be the same as for generic drugs. Questions concerning this advisory should be directed to the Maryland Pharmacy Program at 410-767-1455.