

HEALTH NETWORK ALERT

WEBINAR: *Building an Integrated Appeals System for Dual Eligibles*

When: Thursday, Sept 29
Time: 11AM Pacific /
2PM Eastern

REGISTER NOW

Find More Online

- [Our Priorities](#)
- [Our Issues](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [News](#)

GET INVOLVED

NSCLC invites you to join us in protecting health care, income security, and court access for older adults.

Join Us

Do you know someone interested in joining our Health Network?

Forward to a friend

Please help us protect the rights of low income older adults and persons with disabilities.

Donate Now

All gifts are tax-deductible.

For more information,
Contact:

Georgia Burke
gburke@nsclc.org

Medicare Plans Must Offer Flexibility To Ensure Access in Disaster Areas

For advocates in areas where there has been a "major disaster" declaration, this is a reminder that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has guidance in place that requires Medicare plans to take specific steps to make it easier for Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in Part C (Medicare Advantage) and Part D (prescription drug) plans to obtain needed medication and treatment when normal access is disrupted.

The CMS guidance discusses requirements for flexibility by plans in the following areas:

For Part C:

- Use of non-contracted facilities
- Waiver of primary care gatekeeper requirements
- Reduction in cost sharing

For Part D:

- Early and longer refills
- Modification of out-of-network pharmacy policies
- Waiver of co-pays when a pharmacy determines that individuals cannot pay (waiver is at the discretion of the pharmacy and discussed in guidance that is not confined to periods of disaster)

From the White House Web site, Presidential "major disaster" declarations have recently been issued for: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and Puerto Rico.

Here is CMS guidance to Medicare Part C and D Plans about maintaining access for beneficiaries in "major disaster" areas:



Case consultation help
for advocates

Medicare Managed Care Manual, Ch. 4

www.cms.gov/manuals/downloads/mc86c04.pdf

- 30.9 - Benefits During Disasters and Catastrophic Events

Prescription Drug Benefit Manual, Ch. 5

www.cms.gov/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/downloads/Chapter5.pdf

- 50.12 - Pharmacy Access During a Federal Disaster or Other Public Health Emergency Declaration
- 60.1 - Out-of-Network Pharmacy Access
- 30.4 - Pharmacy Waiver/Reduction of Cost-Sharing and Applicability Toward TrOOP

★ Please give us feedback about whether this E-Alert is helpful to you. Click [here](#) to take a short survey.

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to narevalo@nsclc.org by narevalo@nsclc.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

National Senior Citizens Law Center | 1444 Eye St., NW | Suite 1100 | Washington | DC | 20005