

# Medicare Prescription Drug Congress

## MMA and Medicaid

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**CMS**

CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

# Part D: Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

- **Effective: January 1, 2006**
- **Called “Medicare Prescription Drug Plans’**
- **Eligibility for Part D**
  - Must be entitled to Part A or enrolled in Part B (*Have Medicare Card*)
- **Voluntary**

# Joining a Plan

- **Medicare beneficiaries who want Medicare prescription drug coverage must choose a plan**
  - Many people with limited incomes and resources will get extra help
- **Join November 15 – December 31, 2005**
  - Coverage begins January 1, 2006
- **Join January 1 – May 15, 2006**
  - Coverage begins the month after you join
- **Join when first eligible, to pay lowest monthly premium**
  - About \$32/month in 2006
- **Coverage and costs vary**

# How the Plans Work

- **Must offer basic drug benefit**
  - Standard benefit
- **May offer supplemental benefits**
  - Enhanced benefit
- **Can be flexible in benefit design**
- **May begin marketing in October 2005**
- **Must follow marketing guidelines**

# Successful Transitions to Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

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How will CMS ensure the Medicare prescription drug coverage will be appropriate for Medicare beneficiaries, particularly for vulnerable populations like the dual eligibles?

# Providing Extra Help: Low-income Subsidy

- **Those with lowest incomes pay no premiums or deductibles; small or no copayments**
- **Those with slightly higher incomes pay a little more**
- **Some people will automatically qualify**
  - Full benefit dual eligible;
  - SSI recipient; or
  - Medicare Savings Program
- **Others may have received an application from Social Security**
  - Medicare beneficiaries with income below 150% FPL who meet an asset test

## Ensuring Continuity of Coverage: Auto-Enrollment

- Medicaid prescription drug coverage for full-benefit dual eligibles ends 12/31/005
- Full-benefit dual eligibles will be automatically enrolled in a prescription drug plan effective January 1, 2006 if they do not select a plan
- Notices will be sent informing duals of plan they will be autoenrolled in late-October
- Full-benefit dual eligibles have a SEP so that they change plans any time

# Auto-enrollment – Timing of Events

## During October

- CMS one-time notification to PDPs
- CMS one-time notification to State Medicaid Agencies of those auto-enrolled into PDPs

## Late October

- CMS mails notices to beneficiaries auto-enrolled into PDPs
- Start monthly auto-enrollments

## November – December

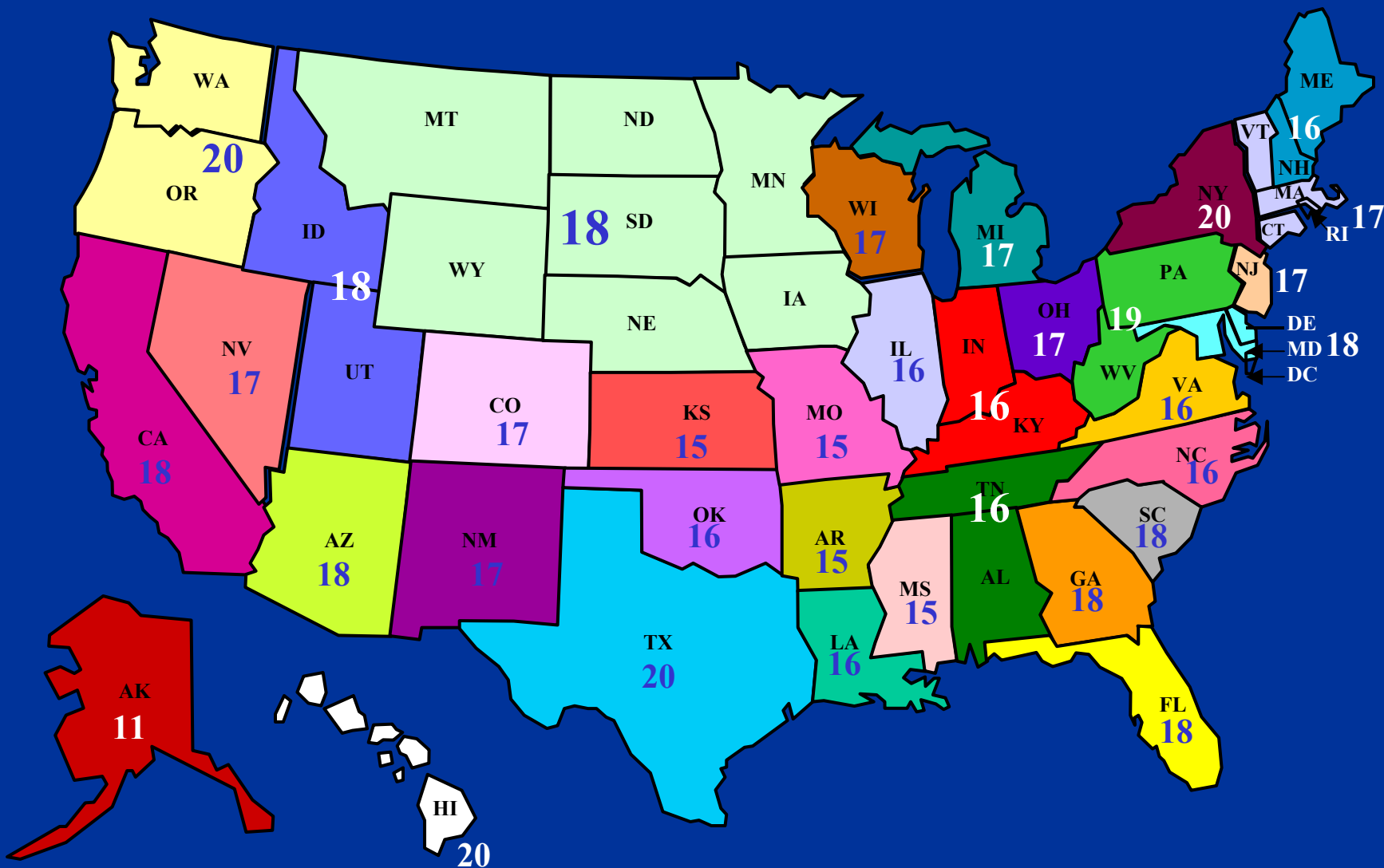
- State Medicaid Agencies send Notice of Action to full duals (that Medicaid coverage is ending for prescription drugs)

## December 31

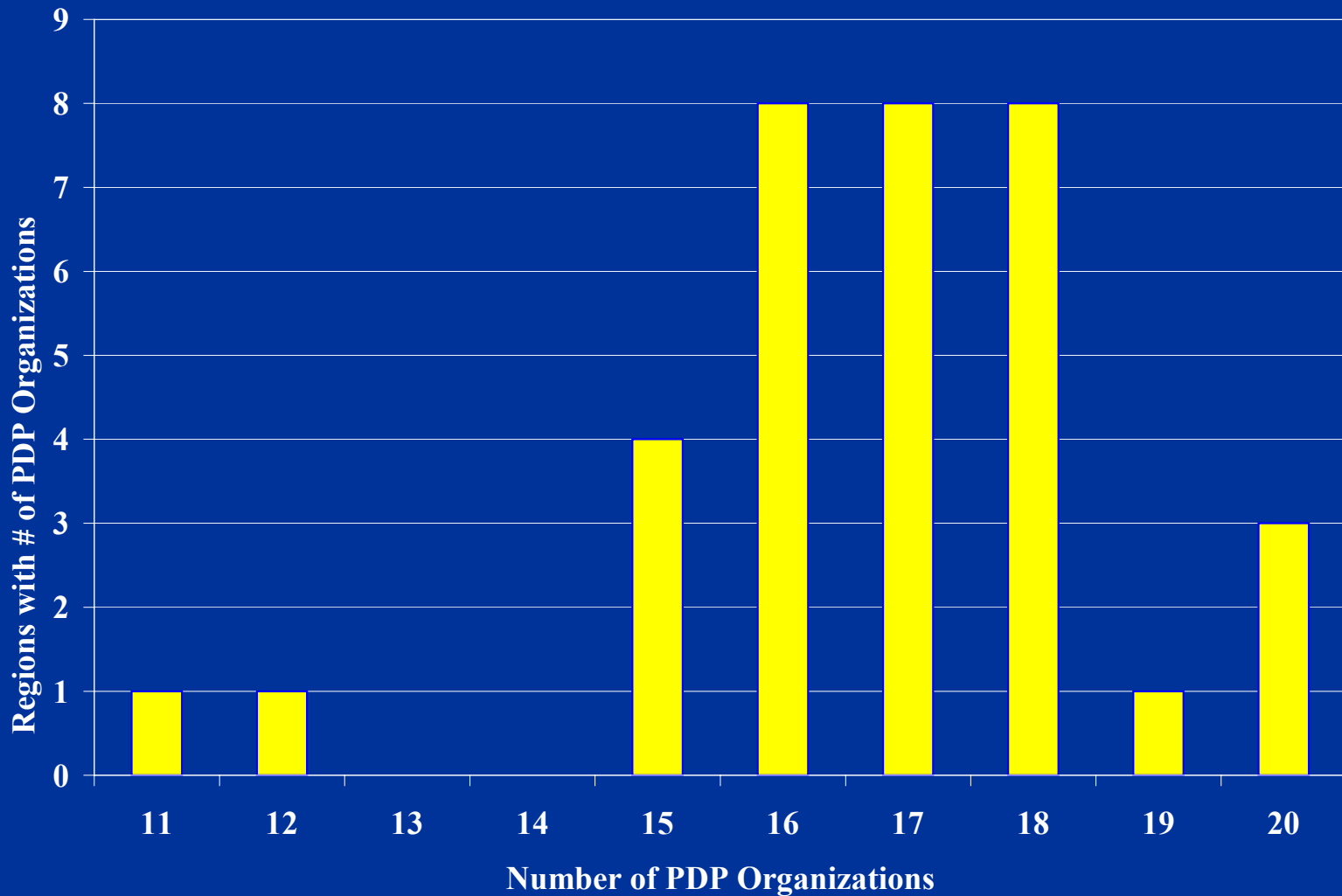
- Last chance to change before auto-enrollment takes effect

- **Drug Plan Qualifications**
  - **Access**
  - **Choice**
  - **Brand Name and Generic**
  - **Pharmacies**
  - **Affordable cost**

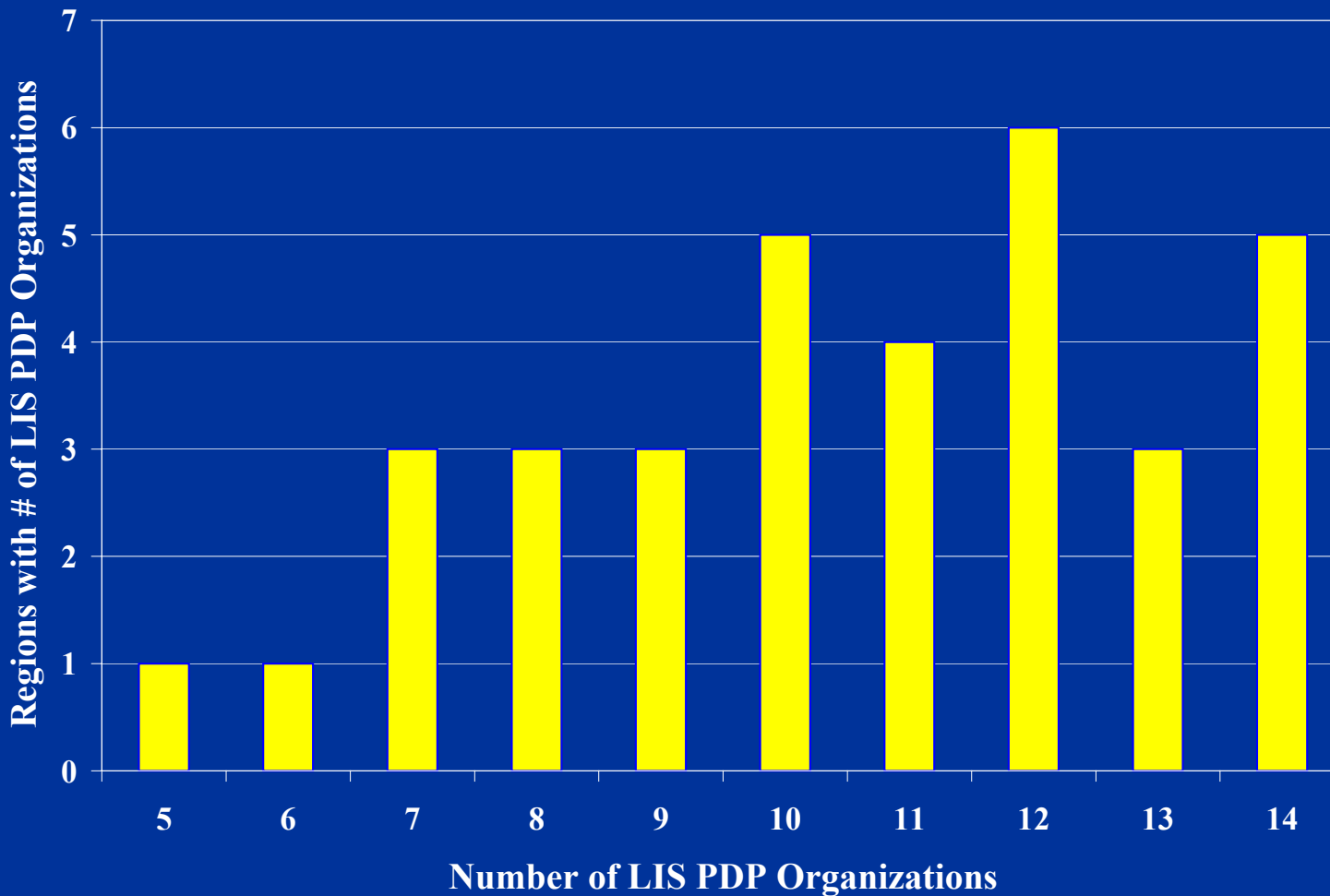
# PDP Organizations



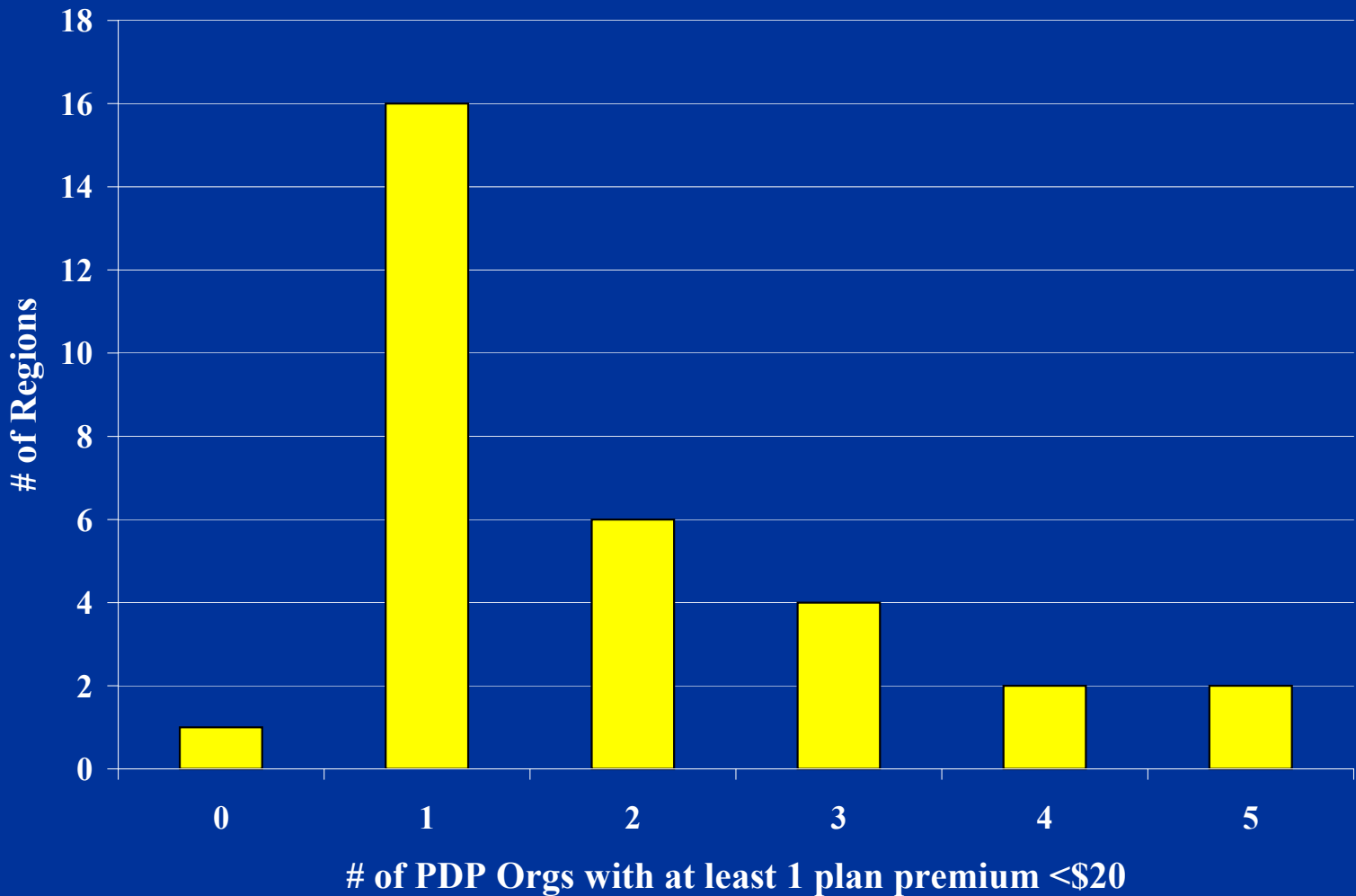
# PDP Organizations per Region



# LIS PDP Organizations per Region



# Regions and Plan Premiums



# National Prescription Drug Plan Organizations

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**Aetna Life Insurance Company**

**Connecticut General Life Insurance Company**

**Coventry Health and Life Insurance Company**

**Medco Containment Life Insurance Company**

**Memberhealth, Inc.**

**Pacificare Life and Health Insurance Company**

**Silverscript Insurance Company**

**Unicare**

**United Health Care Insurance Company**

**Wellcare Health Plans**

# "Medicare Covers America"

## Campaign Strategy

- Multi-level approach

- National
- Regional
- State/local
- SPAPs

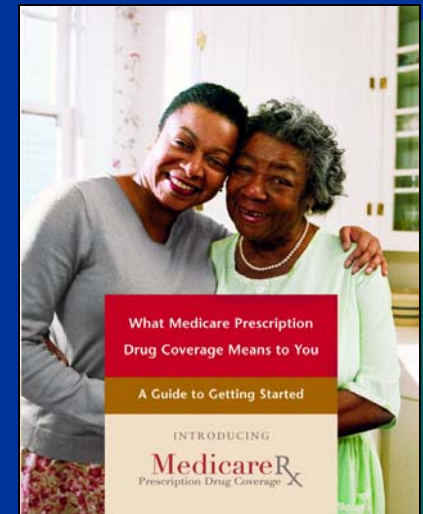
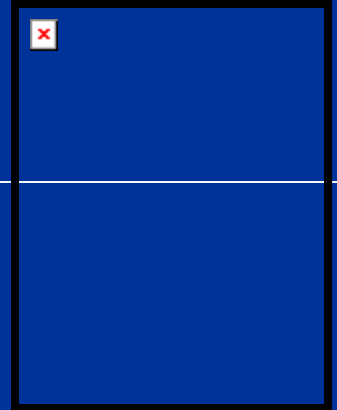
### **Multi-channel approach**

- Media
- Direct mail
- Grassroots outreach
- ***Partnerships***



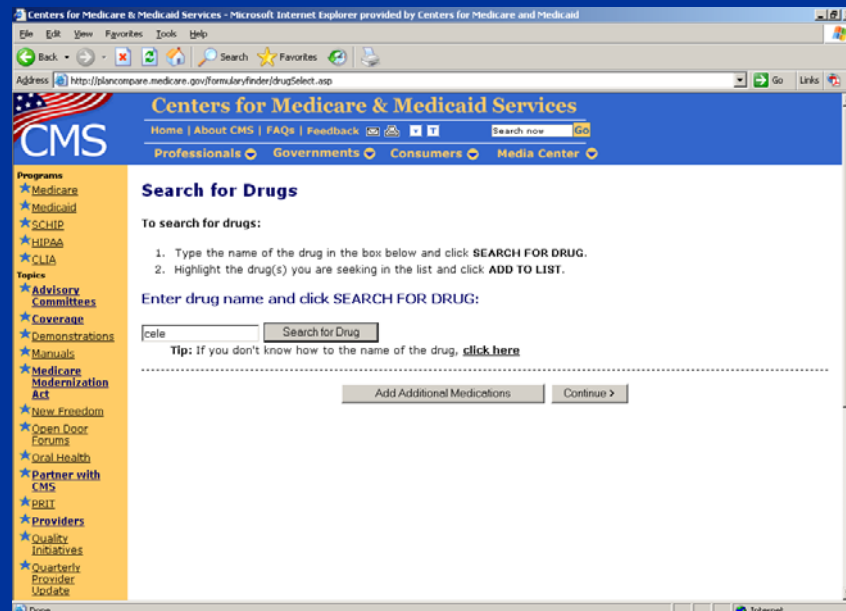
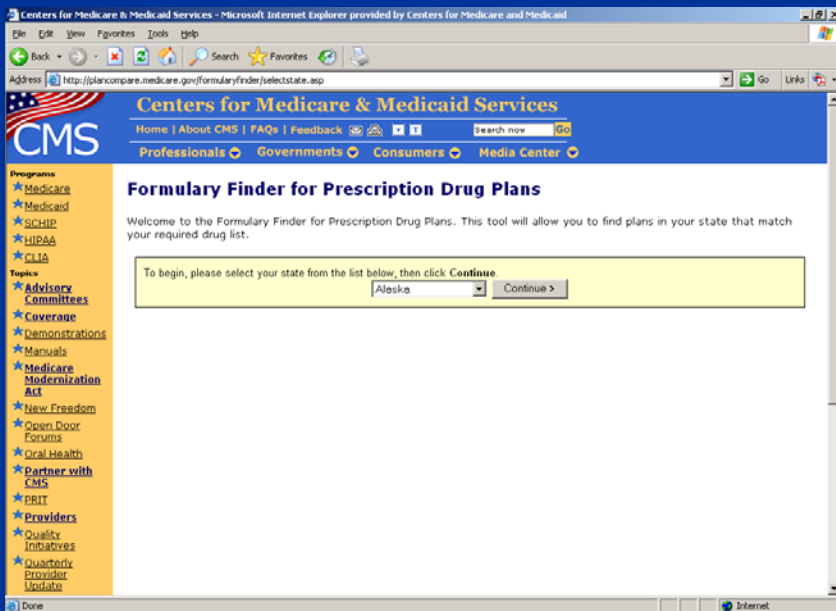
# Resources

- Medicare Rx trifold brochure
- Medicare Rx informational flyer
- Getting Started brochure
- Parade Magazine's insert – Sunday, September 25
- Medicare & You Handbook
  - Mailed in early October
- Web tools



# Web Tools

- Prescription Drug Plan Finder
- Formulary Finder
- Landscape of Local Plans
  - All available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)



# Preparing States Outreach and Education

- **Workgroups**
  - State Issues Workgroup
  - State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP) Workgroup
- **Bi-Monthly All-state calls**
- **Special all-state calls**
  - Like the state mental health facility call on 9/16
- **MMA\_States listserve**
- **Meetings and workshops**
  - Regional
  - National Conference April 2005

# Challenges for States

- **Preparing for low-income subsidy eligibility determinations**
- **Identifying full benefit dual eligible individuals**
- **Helping CMS educate Medicaid recipients about upcoming changes**
- **Making changes on such a short timeline**

# Looking Forward

- **Challenge: Care coordination and continuity of care now that drugs are not included in Medicaid**
  - SNPs look to be a valuable way to coordinate care as we look forward