Lucent Technologies
Bell Labs Innovations

Alumni Connection

Important information for retirees and alumni of Lucent *May 2004*

PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY IF YOU OR YOUR DEPENDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE COVERAGE

As you may know, as part of the recently enacted Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003, Medicare-approved prescription drug discount cards will be available this summer from a variety of prescription drug vendors. Drug manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers, insurers and retail outlets will be sponsoring these cards. You may have already seen them advertised on television.

If you — or your dependents — are eligible for Medicare, you will be receiving information about the card directly from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This information is expected to be mailed in late May. There is a cost associated with acquiring the discount card, depending upon the vendor. Medco Health Solutions, the administrator of the Lucent Prescription Drug Program, has been selected as an approved sponsor of the Medicare-approved prescription drug card.

What This Means To You

You do not need to do anything right now. If you are eligible for Medicare, you will receive information from HHS and CMS about the benefits available to you under the prescription drug discount card program. You will also receive information directly from organizations offering Medicare-approved cards in your area. **In fact, it's likely that you will receive information from Medco about its own Medicare-approved prescription drug card — which is *separate and completely different* from the coverage you receive through Medco as the Lucent Prescription Drug Program administrator.**

The information you receive from CMS will help you determine whether the Medicare-approved prescription drug discount card will offer you access to lower-cost prescription drugs than you can get through the Lucent Prescription Drug Program or your HMO. You will want to compare the cost of your prescription drugs under the Lucent plan to the discount you would receive on the retail cost of your prescriptions with the Medicare discount card. You also will need to consider the cost of the discount card in your comparison.

KEY POINT

It's important that you understand that the Medicare-approved prescription drug discount card is **completely separate and distinct** from the coverage you receive under the Lucent Prescription Drug Program or through your HMO.

For More Information or If You Have Questions

Beginning in late April, beneficiaries will have the opportunity to compare prices of drugs offered through the drug card program at http://www.medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE and talking to a customer service representative. The Web site for people with Medicare also provides a wealth of information on general Medicare reform and details on the Medicare-approved prescription drug discount card.

Lucent Benefits Center representatives will not have the information that Medicare or the organizations sponsoring the Medicare-approved cards can provide and will not be able to advise you in any way. The decision to purchase a Medicare-approved prescription drug discount card is entirely up to you!