

Subject: The Medicare Counselor, May - June 2009

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Conversation: The Medicare Counselor, May - June 2009



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The Medicare Counselor is a free publication of the Medicare Rights Center. Each issue will address timely topics that will help you—social workers, health care providers and other professionals—keep up-to-date on important Medicare issues that affect the well-being of your clients.

In this issue:

1. **Part D Excluded Drugs: Knowing What Is and Is Not Covered.** What drugs are covered by Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) often depends on which drugs your Part D plan chooses to include on its specific list of covered drugs or “formulary.” However, some drugs are explicitly excluded from Medicare coverage by law. [Read the full article.](#)
2. **The Part D Appeals Process.** If you get your drug coverage from a Part D plan, there may be times when a drug that can be legally covered by Part D (not excluded from Medicare drug coverage) is not easily accessible through your plan. In these cases, you will have to file an “exception” request to formally ask your drug plan to cover the drug. To file an exception, there are certain steps that you need to take. [Read the full article.](#)
3. **Medicare Coverage of Oxygen Equipment.** In the past few years, there have been some changes to rules concerning the rental of oxygen

equipment. This article clarifies the current rules. [Read the full article.](#)

The current issue of *The Medicare Counselor* can always be found online at www.medicarerights.org/thecounselor.pdf.

If you have questions about your Medicare benefits or rights, please call the Medicare Rights Center's national hotline at 800-333-4114. The hotline is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Time.

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Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

The Medicare Counselor

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