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January 10, 2006

To: Participating Pharmacies

RE: Acceptance of Illinois Cares Rx Card

URGENT – Reports of non-acceptance of Illinois Cares Rx and MediPlan cards

Some people with Illinois Cares Rx or MediPlan do NOT have Medicare, even if they are age 65 and over. Please remember that NOT everyone age 65 and over is eligible for Medicare. Also, as a contingency plan, the Department is paying directly for Medicare eligible people who are not properly enrolled in a PDP.

State hotlines continue to get numerous reports of pharmacies not accepting the Illinois Cares Rx card or the Illinois MediPlan card for people they believe should be enrolled in Medicare.

Some Illinois Cares Rx and Illinois Medicaid beneficiaries are NOT eligible for Medicare.

Pharmacies should accept and bill using their MediPlan or Illinois Cares Rx billing information for those beneficiaries.

Thank you for your assistance.