

TO: Prospective and New Hospice Patients

RE: Changes to Part D Drug Coverage

As a Medicare-certified hospice provider, we would like to inform you about changes to the Medicare Part D drug coverage from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Part D drug coverage includes medications taken by a patient prior to enrolling on hospice service, for which the patient's Part D provider paid.

As of May 1, 2014, if you have Medicare Part D drug coverage, your pharmacy must bill all your medications to the hospice provider, to determine whether they are covered under the Medicare Hospice Benefit or the Part D plan.

What this means for you

- You will likely be able to receive medications as usual, once we submit the prior authorization form to your Part D provider, for those medications unrelated to your hospice condition or illness .
- Hospice will pay for all medications that are related to your hospice condition or illness and will pay for all meds related to improving your symptoms.
- Our hospice physicians and nurse practitioners will work with you and your primary care physician, to determine the value of continuing medications that may or may not be medically necessary as related to your condition. People often get better when they take stop taking medications because of potential side effects and medication interactions.
- If a medication is determined to be related to your hospice condition, but **not** medically necessary, this medication will **NOT** be covered under the Hospice Benefit or Part D Plan.
- You can however choose to continue medications that are not covered under the Hospice Benefit or Part D Plan, but you will be financially responsible for paying for these medications (also known as paying “out-of-pocket”).
- Four Seasons hospice has a recommended/formulary that and may switch medication which will have the same efficacy as one that you have been taken. If you choose to continue with your medication of choice

Four Seasons is committed to providing the best care and treatment for you and your family during your hospice journey. If you have questions or concerns, please call us at **(828) 692-6178**.