

C.A.R.E.S. Pharmacy Network Newsletter

Summer 2017, Issue 2



Please visit the
C.A.R.E.S. Pharmacy
Network webpage at:
[https://
alpharmacycares.org/](https://alpharmacycares.org/)

We are very pleased to launch a new 1-hour continuing education program, entitled “Pharmacists’ Role in Assisting Medicare Patients with Limited Income”. We invite you to participate in this program as we believe it is a good refresher course with some updated information on MSP and LIS. This printed CE is a new format introduced this year and we hope that you will find it convenient. Participation in this program is, once again, at no cost to you. Also, please feel free to share it with other colleagues outside the network. We hope that the information presented in this 1-hour CE will increase their interest in participating in the 3-hour online CE and ultimately in becoming

part of the C.A.R.E.S. Pharmacy Network.

In March, Tessa Hastings presented the progress of the C.A.R.E.S. Pharmacy Network to ADRC and SHIP coordinators. Many of them are excited and have expressed their interest in connecting with local network pharmacists. In this newsletter, we have published their contact information in case you need to reach out to them in the future.

We are very pleased to welcome two new C.A.R.E.S. members, Continuity of Care Internal Medicine Clinics and Section Pharmacy. These two sites have one thing in common; they include additional personnel (e.g., pharmacy technicians and 4th year pharmacy students) who have gone through the C.A.R.E.S. training. If you are interested in having other members of your pharmacy participate in the

training, please let us know so we can send them the information regarding how to sign up.

The C.A.R.E.S. team will be in Destin at the Alabama Pharmacy Association Annual Convention & Trade Show in June as an exhibitor. We will continue to promote the C.A.R.E.S. pharmacy network as we advertise the current C.A.R.E.S. network members. If you plan on being at the meeting, please stop by our booth. Meanwhile, please continue to refer potentially qualified individuals to ADRCs and spread the word about the program to non-member pharmacists. Together, we can increase our impact on improving the lives of those we serve!

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Salisa Westrick, PhD
Associate Professor,
Health Outcomes
Research and Policy

Featured Member
David Godbee, PharmD
Addison Discount Pharmacy, Addison



David Godbee from Addison Pharmacy completed the C.A.R.E.S. training in November 2015 and was the first pharmacist to join the C.A.R.E.S. Pharmacy Network. David was motivated to join this network because he had encountered patients in his own pharmacy whom he believed might qualify for some additional help but weren't getting the assistance they needed.

Addison Pharmacy currently has three staff actively involved in the C.A.R.E.S. Pharmacy Network, including David and two technicians. David believes that being an active member of the C.A.R.E.S. Pharmacy Network sets his pharmacy apart from others, "Just by being able to be known as a place where people can get help. Where we can actually provide an extra benefit that not everyone else provides." As the network grows and new pharmacies continue to join, David's advice is to simply be observant and think about those patients your staff is familiar with. Many of these patients you are comfortable talking with may need additional help and are counting on you to recognize that. He says, "[Pharmacists] know their people, they know their patients, they know their struggles with coming up with their copays or money for their medications. Just to realize that there is a possible source out there for help for those folks. I guess just being observant and caring...as far as who fits in that category." David enjoys his role as a C.A.R.E.S. pharmacy network member helping his patients find the assistance they need.

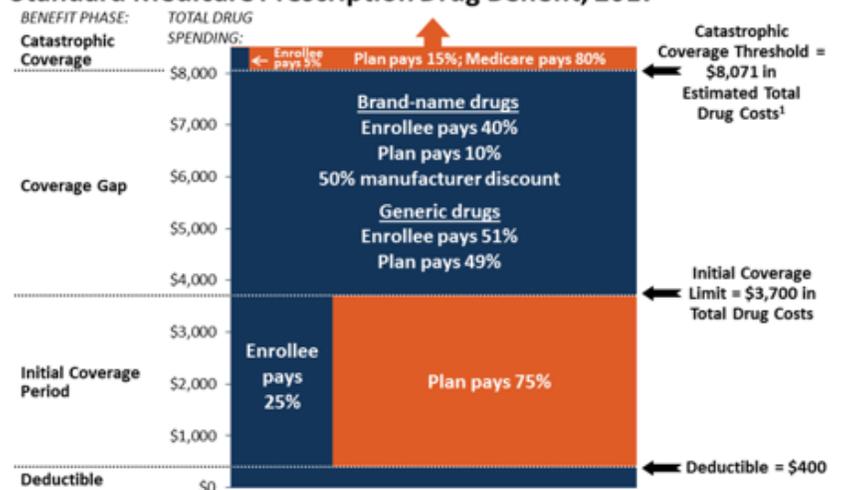
Medicare Pearl Points
Understanding the Medicare Coverage Gap in 2017

Most Medicare Prescription Drug Plans have a coverage gap (also known as the "donut hole"). The coverage gap begins after your patient and his/her drug plan have spent a certain amount for covered drugs. In 2017, once \$3,700 is spent on covered drugs, the patient falls in the coverage gap.

What does this mean to your patients? Patients will experience higher copayments compared to copayments during the initial coverage period. Specifically, as the figure illustrates, the patient will pay 40% of the plan's cost for covered brand-name medications and 51% of the cost of covered generic drugs. While patients' cost-sharing for both brand-name and generic medications is lower for 2017 compared to 2016, the amount can still be significant, especially for those with limited income (40% vs 45% for brand-name medications and 51% vs. 58% for generic medications).

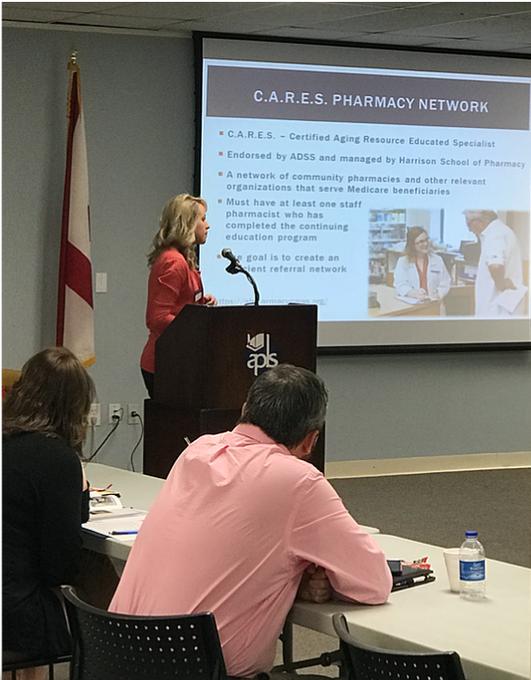
There is good news; not everyone will enter the coverage gap. Patients with ExtraHelp (also known as LIS) won't enter the coverage gap. SenioRx may also be another option to assist Medicare beneficiaries who fall in the coverage gap. Therefore, it is necessary for us to help identify qualified individuals who haven't enrolled in Medicare Savings Plans, ExtraHelp or SenioRx and refer them to ADRCs for screening.

Standard Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, 2017



NOTE: Some amounts rounded to nearest dollar. ¹Amount corresponds to the estimated catastrophic coverage limit for non-low-income subsidy (LIS) enrollees (\$7,425 for LIS enrollees), which corresponds to True Out-of-Pocket (TrOOP) spending of \$4,950, the amount used to determine when an enrollee reaches the catastrophic coverage threshold in 2017.
 SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation illustration of standard Medicare drug benefit for 2017.



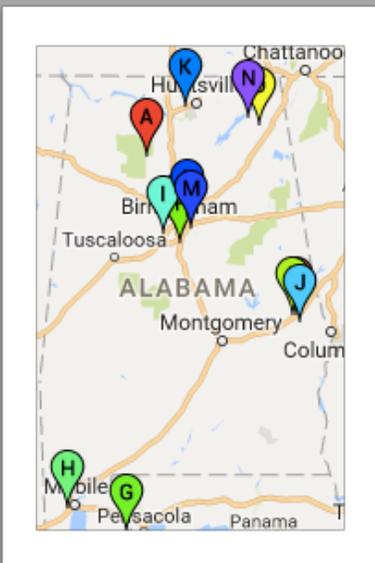


SHIP/ADRC Contact Information

Region	Contact Name	Phone
1. NACOLG	Ashley Witt	256-389-0500 OR 800-838-5845
	Linda Newark	256-389-0500 OR 800-838-5845
2. WARC	Ashley Addox	205-333-2990 OR 800-432-5030
	Debbie Gregory	205-333-2990 OR 800-432-5030
3A. UWCA	Alice Sanders	205-458-3330
	Ashley Lemsky	205-458-3330
3. M4A	Latoya Shelton	1-866-570-2998 OR 205-670-5770
	Kay Hart	1-866-570-2998 OR 205-670-5770
4. EARPCD	Sebrena Foster	800-239-6741 OR 256-237-6741
	Heather McCormick	800-239-6741 OR 256-237-6741
5. SCADC	Dawn Glascock	334-745-2779 OR 800-270-7635
	Nick Nyberg	334-244-6903 OR 800-243-5463
6. ATRC	Davis and Associates	888-671-5246 OR 334-671-3990
	Evette Woods	888-617-0500 OR 334-682-5206
7. SARCOA	Davis and Associates	888-671-5246 OR 334-671-3990
8. SARPC	James Roberson	251-433-6541
	Christina Boyington	251-433-6541
9. CAAC	Sandra Adams-Whately	800-264-4680 OR 334-240-4670
	Yolanda Bean Jackson	800-264-4680 OR 334-240-4670
10. LRCOG	Nicole Stroud	800-239-4444 OR 334-749-5264
	Brandie Battiste	800-239-4444 OR 334-749-5264
11. NARCOG	Lisa Grant	800-682-8604 OR 256-355-4515
	Cynthia Smith	800-682-8604 OR 256-355-4515
12. TARCOG	Teresa Hazard	256-355-4515
	Juliana Cislo	256-355-4515

As you encounter and assist Medicare patients with limited income, you may have questions that need to be answered quickly. To facilitate this, we have provided contact information for coordinators at your local agencies. Using the map to the right, you will be able to identify the region in which your pharmacy is located and match that to the contact information in the table above. The coordinators who have provided their contact information are the individuals who are contacting your referred patients to screen them for benefit programs. They are excited to be working with C.A.R.E.S. Pharmacy Network, recognizing that pharmacists are accessible and knowledgeable and can play an important role in helping low income patients receive the assistance they need. We encourage you to reach out and get to know coordinators in your region. They are valuable sources of information and welcome any questions you may have!





Network Members

- A. Addison Discount Pharmacy | Addison, AL
- B. Kroger Pharmacy | Opelika, AL
- C. Walgreens Pharmacy #6955 | Hueytown, AL
- D. Rainsville Drugs | Rainsville, AL
- E. Walmart Neighborhood Market | East University location, Auburn, AL
- F. Walgreens Pharmacy #4589 | Pelham, AL
- G. Lillian Pharmacy | Lillian, AL
- H. Pharmacy Services of Mobile | Mobile, AL
- I. Weldon Pharmacy | Hueytown, AL
- J. Beauregard Drugs | Auburn, AL
- K. Rite Aid Pharmacy #07054 | Madison, AL
- L. Rite Aid Pharmacy #07013 | Birmingham, AL
- M. Continuity of Care Internal Medicine Clinics-Brookwood Baptist Health | Birmingham, AL
- N. Section Pharmacy | Section, AL

C.A.R.E.S. One Credit Hour CE- Now Available!

In partnership with Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS), the Harrison School of Pharmacy has developed an ACPE approved **one credit hour CE article available at no cost to you or your technician**. As a network member, we are offering this to you as a refresher course.

If you would like to complete this course and receive credit, simply review the educational material and complete the post-test and evaluation in the next month or so. You can access the CE at <https://alpharmacycares.org/> where it is available as a downloadable pdf. The assessment is included within the CE pdf and upon completion, can be faxed to 334-844-8307, or emailed to Tessa Hastings at tjh0043@auburn.edu. Alternatively, you may complete the assessment online at <https://alpharmacycares.org/>.

For non-network members this course is offered as an introduction prior to completion of the 3 credit hour training required for enrollment in the C.A.R.E.S. Pharmacy Network. If additional staff at your pharmacy are interested, please pass this information along. Further, the online continuing education (CE) program is still available at **no cost** for any Alabama pharmacists or technicians. The program will provide **3 ACPE approved credit hours** and can be completed at their convenience. This program will provide updated information regarding programs for Medicare patients with limited income and how to efficiently and effectively assist these patients.

If you are interested or want more information about either CE program,
please visit <https://alpharmacycares.org/>

