

# *News from SHINE – May 2012*

## **Need help with prescription drug costs? Prescription Advantage may be your answer!**

Prescription Advantage is a state-run program which helps many seniors pay for their prescription drugs. There is no charge for joining Prescription Advantage, if you have an annual income at or less than \$33,510 for a single person and \$45,390 for a married couple. *(There is no asset limit!)*

### **Who can join?**

If you are a Massachusetts resident, eligible for Medicare, and are:

- 65 years or older with an annual income at or less than \$55,850 for a single person or \$75,650 for a married couple

OR...

- under 65 years and disabled, with an annual income at or less than \$21,000 for a single person or \$28,444 for a married couple.

If you are **not** eligible for Medicare, you can also join and there is *no income limit*.

### **How can Prescription Advantage help you?**

- If you have Medicare, Prescription Advantage helps pay for your prescriptions when you reach the Medicare Part D coverage gap (donut hole).
- If you are unhappy with your current Part D or Medicare Advantage plan, Prescription Advantage allows you to switch your plan **now**, instead of waiting for Open Enrollment in October.
- If you are NOT currently enrolled but you need a Part D or Medicare Advantage plan **now**, joining Prescription Advantage allows you to enroll right away.

Call Prescription Advantage today for an application form. You can reach Prescription Advantage at 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636), then press or say 2.

**You can now access our monthly SHINE chat line, sponsored by the Central Massachusetts Agency Aging, on the second Tuesday of each month. To attend the SHINE Session, go to [www.SeniorConnection.org](http://www.SeniorConnection.org) and click on Connection for Caregiver button. Then click on the Support Groups and Chats button. Create a username and password, log in and click on SHINE.**

*If you need help on any aspect of your health insurance, SHINE offers free counseling at your local Senior Center or Council on Aging. Call your Senior Center or COA and ask for a SHINE appointment. You can reach a SHINE volunteer by phone at 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636) If you get the SHINE voice mail, leave your name and phone number and a counselor will call you back as soon as possible. SHINE (Serving the Health Information of Elders) is coordinated by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs in partnership with the Friends of the Milford Senior Center, The Massachusetts Councils on Aging, and other local agencies*

