



## Rx for Indiana Partner News October 2005

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### Rx for Indiana's popularity continues to grow

As of Sept. 28, more than 113,000 residents contacted Rx for Indiana to determine their potential eligibility for prescription assistance programs. With the number of visitors and a match rate of 74.75 percent, Rx for Indiana is one of the most successful prescription assistance programs in the nation.

<b>RxForIndiana - September 28, 2005 - CUMULATIVE TO DATE</b>			
<i>Type</i>	<i>Calls Taken/Searches</i>	<i>Patients Who Initially Qualify</i>	<i>Percent Matched</i>
<b>Phone</b>	<b>49,426</b>	<b>37,100</b>	<b>75.06%</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>63,673</b>	<b>47,441</b>	<b>74.51%</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>113,099</b>	<b>84,541</b>	<b>74.75%</b>

### Partner activities

In September, representatives and partners of Rx for Indiana participated in:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| September 1  | Health and information fair at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center (Lafayette, Ind.) |
| September 17 | Fiesta Indianapolis (American Legion Mall, Indianapolis)                        |
| September 24 | Educational session at Zions Hill Church (Martinsville, Ind.)                   |
| September 28 | Health and information fair at Woodlawn Hospital (Rochester, Ind.)              |

We would like to thank the volunteers who helped staff these events and spread the word about Rx for Indiana!

## Upcoming events

The following activities are scheduled for October:

October 9	Hispanic Health Fair, St. Mary's Catholic Church, (Indianapolis)
October 12	Senior Expo (Indianapolis)
October 13	"A Healthy Indiana" conference, sponsored by the Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (Indianapolis)
October 16	Hispanic Health Fair, St. Monica's Catholic Church (Indianapolis)
October 22	Health Fair at Lafayette Square Mall (Indianapolis)

If your organization is hosting an event at which Rx for Indiana should have a presence, please let us know.

## October is the month to talk about prescriptions

During October, Rx for Indiana is encouraging Hoosiers to "talk about prescriptions" with those closest to them. "Talk about Prescriptions Month" is sponsored by the National Council on Patient Information and Education to urge patients to discuss how the safe and consistent use of medicine can improve patients' quality of life.

October is also "Indiana Pharmacists Month," sponsored by the Indiana Pharmacists Alliance. Gov. Mitch Daniels officially proclaimed October as such to raise awareness of the role of pharmacy in personal health care. More than 8,600 Indiana pharmacists provide patient services every day.

## Medicare update

In late September it was announced that 22 prescription drug plans will be available in Indiana for Medicare beneficiaries. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, there will be one with a monthly deductible less than \$20. The *Medicare and You* 2006 handbook has been mailed. We would like to notify you of an error in it. Following is CMS' statement:

*Last Friday, a major problem with the 2006 Medicare & You Handbook was detected. Unfortunately, this is the publication that is sent to most Medicare beneficiaries. Under the column, "If I Qualify for Extra Help, will My Full Premium be Covered?" the reader is told that his/her premium will be fully covered regardless of the plan chosen. **This is incorrect.** If a low-income beneficiary chooses a plan with a premium that is higher than the benchmark, their full premium is not covered.*

*Upon being notified, CMS leadership confirmed that they had also discovered the problem and were working to find a solution, as millions of these handbooks have been printed and begun to be mailed. This morning we have learned that CMS is taking immediate action including: ensuring the info on the Medicare.gov website is correct, sending out a new script today to all plans, sending the corrected information to their partners including SHIPs, adding corrected information to the 1-800-Medicare script, and creating a Q&A about the error for the website. As we receive corrected information, we will pass it along. Thanks.*

Rx for Indiana will have a link directly to Medicare's Web site to assist beneficiaries looking for information on the new benefit. Callers to the Rx for Indiana toll-free number will continue to receive information about the new benefit and the extra help available through the Social Security Administration.

Events are being scheduled across the state to assist beneficiaries with the process. After Oct. 15, there will be a tool available where beneficiaries and caregivers can compare all available plans and find those that best meet their needs. If you would like to host an educational session

or enrollment event for the new Medicare benefit, contact Cheryl Leamon at cleamon@bjmpr.com or 317.631.6400.

**Volunteers needed**

We need your help staffing the Hispanic Health Fair on Oct. 9 and 16 in Indianapolis. Approximately four to eight bilingual volunteers will be needed for each event to answer questions about Rx for Indiana. If you have members looking for volunteer opportunities or you would like to participate, please contact Paula Parker-Sawyers at 317.233.3295.

**Information request**


Rx for Indiana is looking for Hoosiers who have saved money using the program. If you have helped someone get in touch with assistance programs that will help them save on their prescription costs, we want to know. Send us an e-mail at RxforIndiana@bjmpr.com.

**Need materials?**

**Please e-mail us at  
RxforIndiana@bjmpr.com**

**Contact information**

We would like to hear from you. If you have any questions or requests, please contact the following people:

	<p><b>Who to Call</b></p>
<b>Partner information –</b>	Julie Newland (317) 276-6178 Newland_Julie_M@Lilly.com
<b>News media information</b>	Cheryl Uram Leamon or Erin Pipkin (317) 631-6400 CLEamon@bjmpr.com or EPipkin@bjmpr.com
<b>Volunteers/trainings</b>	Paula Parker-Sawyers (317) 233-3295 PMSawyers@ofbci.in.gov
<b>General/materials requests</b>	Erin Pipkin (317) 631-6400 Epipkin@bjmpr.com