



Statement by Mary R. Grealy, President, Healthcare Leadership Council on Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Process

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 16, 2009) – Mary R. Grealy, president of the Healthcare Leadership Council and Chairman of the nonpartisan [Medicare Today](#) Coalition, issued the following statement on the commencement of the annual Medicare Part D open enrollment process.

“Since 2006, millions of seniors have benefited from the addition of a Medicare prescription drug program that continues to drive down costs, ensure peace of mind and deliver affordable high-quality drugs to those who rely on them every day. Without question, Medicare Part D has transformed the way we administer healthcare to America’s seniors.”

“As the open enrollment process gets underway, it is critical that seniors have the tools, resources and information to make informed decisions about their prescription drug coverage for 2010. We are committed to helping Medicare beneficiaries across the country select the option that best meets their individual needs.”

A [national survey](#) released last week by Medicare Today showed that overall satisfaction with the Medicare prescription drug benefit has grown from 78 percent to 88 percent, up ten percentage points since early 2006. Eighty-five percent of survey respondents continue to find their monthly premium to be affordable, and more than eight in 10 seniors surveyed would recommend the program to someone who is not currently enrolled.

In addition to the Medicare Today website, current and prospective Medicare beneficiaries can learn more about the program by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Before speaking with a counselor, beneficiaries are advised to have a prepared list of prescription drugs they take, including the dosage, frequency and a preferred pharmacy. Medicare beneficiaries can also visit www.medicare.gov to compare prescription drug plans, add/update drug and pharmacy information and enroll online.

The U.S. Social Security Administration also provides assistance for those who may qualify financially for extra help with the cost of prescription drugs. Medicare beneficiaries interested in applying for extra help or those who have previously applied and want to check their status can call 1-800-772-1213 to contact their local Social Security office.

About Medicare Today

Healthcare Leadership Council launched Medicare Today in November 2004 to reach out to Medicare beneficiaries who needed reliable information on how to get the greatest value from the new Medicare benefits. Medicare Today administers the partnership of over 400 national and local organizations including American Academy of Family Physicians, National Association of Family Physicians, and National Alliance for Hispanic Health. Medicare Today develops innovative tools for use by all partners, commissions research studies, and undertakes earned media efforts and outreach to inform beneficiaries about the value of the benefits under the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA).