



**State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services**

**Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary**

For Immediate Release
December 8, 2008

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Department Issues New SeniorCare Cards to Members

New cards can be used immediately; members encouraged to destroy old cards to ensure privacy

The Department of Health Services announces that replacement SeniorCare cards have been mailed to all SeniorCare members. Each member has been assigned a new, randomly assigned member identification number that has been printed on the front of the cards.

“People can begin using their card right away and are encouraged to take it to all health care appointments and pharmacies,” said Secretary Karen Timberlake. “Members should destroy their old SeniorCare card upon receiving their replacement card in order to ensure that their privacy is maintained.”

SeniorCare is Wisconsin’s prescription drug program for seniors. Enrollment in the SeniorCare program costs just \$30 per year and is available for seniors age 65 and older. The application is one page and there are no asset tests for eligibility. Only income is counted.

According to analysis by AARP Wisconsin, more than 94 percent of seniors are better off on SeniorCare than they would be under Medicare Part D because the co-payments are lower and the coverage is more comprehensive. In addition, the state uses its bargaining power to negotiate the lowest prices for prescription drugs, while Congress made it illegal for the federal government to bargain for lower prices.

SeniorCare is approved to continue through December 31, 2009. Governor Doyle, Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation and the Department of Health Services are all committed to making sure the program is extended past next year. This summer the Department sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to tell them that the state intends to renew the program. The Department is working on the paperwork to extend SeniorCare and plans to submit it early next year.

SeniorCare is one of the state’s ForwardHealth programs. ForwardHealth is a new brand for the state’s health care and nutrition programs. For more information on ForwardHealth programs, visit: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/ForwardHealth/>

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