



**CMS Agency Report to PharmPAC**  
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**OVER 2 MILLION MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES FAILED TO SIGN UP FOR DISCOUNTED DRUG COVERAGE:**

[Kaiser Health News](#) (1/4, Galewitz) reports, "More than 2 million Medicare beneficiaries have failed to sign up for a program that could save them thousands of dollars a year in drug costs despite government mailings, ads and even pitches from rock and roll legend Chubby Checker." Kaiser says "the subsidy program, called Extra Help, can provide significant savings on the cost of Part D prescription drug coverage for low-income Medicare beneficiaries. The government estimates Medicare recipients can save an average of \$3,900 a year." Notably, "a study released in September by researchers at Georgetown University and the University of Chicago estimated that 2.3 million people were eligible for the program but didn't apply."

**CMS releases Joint Guidance About Health Insurance Exchanges Information Technology**

By providing a place for one-stop shopping, Exchanges will make purchasing health insurance easier and more understandable. Although Exchanges are not scheduled to start for a few years, work is already underway to design and implement them. States have a major role in the creation and operation of the Health Insurance Exchanges and HHS is committed to working closely with them every step of the way.

[http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/regulations/health\\_insurance\\_exchange\\_info\\_tech\\_sys.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/regulations/health_insurance_exchange_info_tech_sys.html)