



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Megan Myers
Director of Communications
South Dakota State Medical Association
605-336-1965
605-610-4878 cell
mmyers@sdsma.org

SDSMA REMINDS BENEFICIARIES OF OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR MEDICARE PART D

SIoux FALLS, SD – Nov. 13, 2008 - The South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) would like to remind Medicare beneficiaries that November 15 through December 31 marks an important opportunity that could potentially help them save money on prescription drugs.

This time period is the open enrollment season for Medicare Part D prescription drug beneficiaries. Enrollees are encouraged to review their current coverage and compare it to other plans available in order to find a plan that truly works best for them.

Since its implementation, Medicare Part D benefit polls have shown that enrollees are overwhelmingly satisfied with the coverage they are receiving. Recent polls indicate that 85 percent to 89 percent of Part D enrollees have indicated they are either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their coverage.

The SDSMA believes it is important that seniors remain satisfied with their coverage and encourages beneficiaries to compare plans every year during the open enrollment period. Selecting the right prescription drug plan may sound daunting, but there are plenty of resources available to help. Visit www.medicare.gov to compare plans online or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

There are also many local resources available throughout South Dakota, such as the State’s Senior Health Information and Insurance Education (SHIINE) program (www.shiine.net or 1-800-536-8197, or 605-333-3314 in Sioux Falls). Information on where to get local help in each County on Medicare Part D help is available by calling SDSU Cooperative Extension Services in each county seat.

The SDSMA serves more than 1,900 physician members who are dedicated to the health of South Dakotans. The mission of the SDSMA is to promote the art and science of medicine, to protect and improve the health of the public and provide leadership and advocacy in the field of quality health care.

Learn more about the SDSMA at www.sdsma.org.

###