

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM****DIVISION: Temporary Assistance****October 14, 2004**

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**TO:** Commissioners; TA & FS Directors; WMS Coordinators**FROM:** Russell Sykes, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Temporary Assistance**SUBJECT:** FS Policy on Medicare Rx Drug Discount programs**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately**CONTACT PERSON:** Food Stamp Policy Team at 1-800-343-8859, ext. 3-1469

This is in follow-up to the October 4<sup>th</sup> release of 04-ADM-07 "Food Stamp Medical Deduction for Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Cards". This policy on treatment of prescription drug discounts and credits received through Medicare-Approved Prescription Drug discount cards is effective October 1, 2004. It requires districts to solicit information from households with Medicare recipients at the time of initial certification and during recertifications regarding enrollment in a Medicare-Approved Prescription Drug discount card program. If the district is informed of enrollment in one of these programs and the additional \$73.00 monthly medical expense for each Medicare drug discount cardholder is not yet budgeted, medical expenses must be adjusted as detailed in the ADM.

Attached is a one page outreach flyer prepared by a joint project of SENSES (Statewide Emergency Network for Social and Economic Security) and the Nutrition Consortium of NYS. It is formatted to also serve as a form for Food Stamp recipients to use in notifying local districts of their enrollment in a Medicare-Approved Prescription Drug discount card program. Although it is not being distributed by NYS OTDA, districts may begin receiving these forms from households in the mail and should be prepared to accept them as documentation of enrollment in Medicare-Approved drug discount card programs. Although NYS OTDA is not requiring districts to post this flyer in public waiting rooms or other offices, districts may choose to do so as an aid to their Medicare population.