

Medicare guide has error about new drug benefit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Oops. The government's official handbook for explaining Medicare to beneficiaries contains an error pertaining to the new prescription drug benefit that kicks in Jan. 1.

The 35 million handbooks are being shipped in waves. Some beneficiaries may have them as soon as this weekend.

Gary Karr, a spokesman for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said the agency erred when listing the prescription drug plans available with no monthly premium for low-income beneficiaries.

The booklets listed all of the plans available for those with limited assets and income as having no monthly premium.

But only about 40% of the plans actually qualify for no premium.

Karr said the agency will work with groups to help people get the correct information. ■