

## **Area Agencies on Aging Nationwide Launch Pharmacy Benefits Week to Help Medicare Beneficiaries Maximize Benefits**

*New National Observance Centerpiece of Answers on Aging® Campaign  
Developed in Collaboration with n4a and Walgreens*

WASHINGTON, DC—Jan. 26, 2016—According to a recent survey<sup>1</sup>, older adults most frequently cited medication cost as a challenge they faced when trying to access health care and few Medicare beneficiaries are aware of potential prescription cost saving opportunities through their pharmacy. The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), with the support of many of their 622 local affiliates, and in collaboration with Walgreens, today announced the launch of Pharmacy Benefits Week, Jan. 25-29. Pharmacy Benefits Week is the centerpiece of the Answers on Aging®: Pharmacy Benefits public education campaign, which was designed to help consumers get the most out of their pharmacy benefits.

During Pharmacy Benefits Week Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) will host public education events in communities throughout the country. Medicare beneficiaries can meet with trained Medicare counselors and area Walgreens pharmacists to understand their selected prescription plan and get information about ways to maximize their pharmacy benefits. Counselors can also share information on the importance of taking medications as prescribed.

According to a recent analysis of 2016 prescription drug plans, three out of four seniors enrolled in Medicare Part D (PDP) plans are in preferred provider networks.<sup>2</sup> Many seniors do not know they can save money by obtaining prescriptions through pharmacies designated by their insurance plan as preferred.

“AAAs already play a crucial role in counseling consumers about Medicare ahead of the enrollment deadline, but we wanted to close the knowledge gap once plans are selected,” said n4a CEO Sandy Markwood. “Without a better understanding of their pharmacy benefits, many older adults and people with disabilities may not be taking their medications as prescribed because they fear additional out-of-pocket cost. Designating a week, post enrollment, to provide information and expertise to help beneficiaries understand their benefits is vital to improving education and, ultimately, to improving their health.”

“Walgreens is pleased to collaborate with n4a and AAAs to support education for Medicare beneficiaries in their communities,” said John Lee, Senior Director, Medicare Part D, Walgreens. “We strive to support beneficiaries locally in our stores and online with innovative tools, like our new Medicare prescription copay quote offering, allowing our pharmacists to help customers preview Medicare prescription drug costs specific to their prescription drug needs so that they are positioned to make informed decisions.”

For more information on Pharmacy Benefits Week, visit n4a at [www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org)

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<sup>1</sup> National Council on Aging; The United States of Aging, July 2015

<sup>2</sup> Drug Channels, Jan. 20, 2016.

### **About n4a**

The **National Association of Area Agencies on Aging** (n4a) is a 501c(3) membership association representing America's national network of 622 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and providing a voice in the nation's capital for the 256 Title VI Native American aging programs. The mission of n4a is to build the capacity of its members so they can better help older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

### **About Walgreens**

Walgreens ([www.walgreens.com](http://www.walgreens.com)), the nation's largest drugstore chain, is included in the Retail Pharmacy USA Division of Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. (Nasdaq: WBA), the first global pharmacy-led, health and wellbeing enterprise. More than 8 million customers interact with Walgreens each day in communities across America, using the most convenient, multichannel access to consumer goods and services and trusted, cost-effective pharmacy, health and wellness services and advice. Walgreens operates 8,240 drugstores with a presence in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Walgreens digital business includes [Walgreens.com](http://Walgreens.com), [drugstore.com](http://drugstore.com), [Beauty.com](http://Beauty.com), [SkinStore.com](http://SkinStore.com) and [VisionDirect.com](http://VisionDirect.com). Walgreens also manages more than 400 Healthcare Clinic and provider practice locations around the country.

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