

# Medicare Part D Training

## Healthcare for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities: Recent Developments

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# NSCLC Mission

- National Senior Citizens Law Center advocates nationwide to promote the independence and well-being of low-income elderly and disabled Americans.
- NSCLC represents the interests of low-income people before Congress and administrative agencies; trains, informs and assists local and state level advocates so that low-income elderly and disabled people have the best possible representation; and litigates cases to keep open access to health care and income benefits.

[www.nsclc.org](http://www.nsclc.org)

# Healthcare: Recent Developments

- Medicare Litigation
- Medicare Legislation
- Medi-Cal Budget Battle
- Elder Economic Security Initiative

# Medicare Litigation

- A settlement has been proposed in the Medicare Part D class action lawsuit, Situ v. Leavitt.
- Nationwide class action on behalf of dual eligibles (Medicare beneficiaries who also qualify for Medi-Cal)
- Challenged delays in enrollment and subsidy status of these beneficiaries

# Medicare Litigation

- Under the settlement, Medicare will:
  - Speed up enrollment and subsidy deeming process
  - Assist beneficiaries who are having trouble accessing subsidy
  - Conduct renewed outreach to pharmacists, plans and beneficiaries
- Settlement filed with the court in June and awaiting final approval
- [www.nsclc.org/areas/medicare-part-d](http://www.nsclc.org/areas/medicare-part-d)

# Medicare Legislation

- Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 passed on July 15
- Restored Medicare payment rates for physicians and made several improvements to the Medicare program for beneficiaries

# Medicare Legislation

- **Beneficiary Improvement Highlights:**
  - Extends Qualified Individual program
  - Raises MSP asset limits
  - Removes barriers to Low Income Subsidy enrollment
  - Mental health parity
  - Codifies “protected classes” under Part D
  - Marketing restrictions for private plans
  - Increases regulation of private plans
  - Improves language access monitoring and requirements

# Medi-Cal

- Budget battle continues
- Governor proposed significant cuts to Medi-Cal program
  - Provider rate cuts
  - IHSS cuts
  - Dental and vision cuts
  - Part B premium payment cuts
  - More
- Legislature has rejected most cuts, but negotiations continue

# CA Elder Economic Security Initiative

- An accurate and reliable measure of what it takes to make ends meet
  - Alternative to the outdated Federal Poverty Level
  - County by county, different housing situations, different health status
  - Part of a national coalition
- [www.insightcced.org](http://www.insightcced.org)

# Questions

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