

AARP Launches Money-Saving Prescription Drug Resource for Consumers

Online calculator helps people avoid doughnut hole

Each year, an estimated three million-plus older Americans fall into the doughnut hole — a coverage gap in Medicare’s prescription drug program that leaves individuals on the hook for all of their own drug costs while still paying premiums. The AARP Doughnut Hole Calculator, available at www.aarp.org/doughnuthole, helps people find options to save money and potentially avoid this coverage gap.

The free online calculator guides visitors through their prescription drug options using state-specific information about their plans and prescriptions to determine if or when they will fall into the coverage gap. In about 15 minutes, visitors can view a graph of their out-of-pocket spending by month, look up lower cost drugs for their conditions, create a medication record, and print out personalized letters to their doctors to help start a conversation about safely switching prescriptions.

Brochures on this resource are available for you to distribute to the people you serve. If interested, call Shanel Antunes at 617-305-0564. A demonstration of all this tool offers will be the subject of a workshop at this October’s MCOA conference.