

August 4, 2009

Dear Friend:

By the end of this summer, more than one million older Americans will have fallen into the “doughnut hole” – a coverage gap in Medicare’s prescription drug program. To help people avoid falling into the hole, AARP has developed a new online resource, the AARP Doughnut Hole Calculator, which is **free for anyone** to use.

This resource is available at www.aarp.org/doughnuthole, and 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 gap.

You are invited to **attend** a live **webinar** right from the comfort of your **office or home** showing all that this new tool has to offer. You will see how someone can completely avoid the coverage gap or at least postpone hitting the doughnut hole.

Check your calendars for the following dates and let us know **which date is best for you**:

Wednesday, August 12, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Thursday, August 13, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Sign up for the webinar by **calling** Shanel Antunes at 617-305-0564 by **Tuesday, August 11**. We will email you the call in number for the audio and send you the link for you to participate online.

Key features of the Doughnut Hole Calculator are:

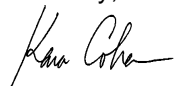
- **Simple to use** navigation makes it easy for consumers (or their caregivers) to use.
- **Consumers can see their** projected prescription drug costs throughout the year, and helps them identify when they might hit the doughnut hole.
- **Printable** wallet-size list of all the drugs they are taking.
- **Personalized letters** that lists up to three therapeutically similar **medications for some of your drugs** to help start the discussion with your doctor as well as save money for you. All recommendations are based on independent clinical and scientifically-based criteria.
- **Data is not** saved once the individual has completed work with the calculator **to protect your privacy**.

We have attached a number of resources:

- 5 copies of a consumer brochure that describes AARP’s Doughnut Hole Calculator.
- AARP’s two-page *Rx Watchdog* newsletter that provides a brief explanation of how AARP’s Doughnut Hole Calculator works.
- AARP Public Policy Institute’s two-page Fact Sheet that explains the gap in Medicare Part D drug coverage and discusses how it impacts beneficiaries, and presents options for closing the gap.

We hope you find this tool useful for the people you serve. If you have any questions, please call 617-305-0564.

Sincerely,



Kara Cohen
Community Service Director