

Comparing LIS and non-LIS beneficiary experience with Part D

ISSUE: Part D spending is concentrated among a subset of beneficiaries. Beneficiaries with higher annual drug spending are more likely to receive Part D’s low-income subsidy (LIS). Our analyses suggest that LIS and non-LIS beneficiaries have different experiences using the drug benefit.

KEY POINTS: For this presentation, we report results from our analyses of spending and utilization for drugs covered under Part D using 2007 prescription drug event (PDE) data. We compare spending and utilization for beneficiaries receiving the low-income subsidy (LIS) with those who do not. We also present findings from recent beneficiary focus groups, including groups of LIS beneficiaries and groups of non-LIS beneficiaries with high drug spending. Additional research is necessary to determine the extent to which health status, benefit design, or other factors are contributing to the differences suggested by our findings.

ACTION: Commissioners should discuss future directions for this research.

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