

# **What is Limited Income Subsidy (LIS)?**

## **If you have patients with limited income they may qualify for help with prescription costs through Social Security**

### **What is LIS?**

LIS, also known as “extra help”, assists Medicare beneficiaries with paying all or a portion of their Medicare Prescription Drug Plan’s premium, annual deductible, and/or co-payments. Beneficiaries may be eligible for a full subsidy or a partial subsidy based on their income and assets. Beneficiaries must be enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug plan to be eligible to receive the extra help.

### **Who is eligible for LIS?**

Eligibility for LIS is determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA) or the state Medicaid office (for beneficiaries with both Medicare and Medicaid). The following eligibility criteria apply in 2011:

1. Income levels are within the Federal Poverty Level ranges described below and
2. Resources (combined savings, investments, and real estate; other than your home) are within the ranges described below

Full Subsidy: Income below 135% Federal Poverty Level (in 2011, up to \$14,621 for an individual and up to \$19,670 for a married couple) and limited resources (in 2011, up to \$8,100 per individual and \$12,910 married couple)

Partial Subsidy: Income above 135% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but at or below 150% FPL (in 2011, up to \$16,245, for an individual and up to \$21,855 for a married couple) and limited resources (in 2011, up to \$12,510 per individual and \$25,010 married couple)

*All active full- and partial-dual eligible Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries automatically receive extra help in the form of LIS for Medicare Part D.*

### **How do you apply for Extra Help?**

You must complete and submit an application either over the telephone by calling Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)