

President Announces Medicare Beneficiaries in Part D ‘Donut Hole’ to Receive \$250 Check; Steps to Combat Waste, Fraud and Abuse

Beginning this June 10, Medicare participants will begin to receive a one-time, tax free check for \$250, if they enter the Part D ‘donut hole’ and are not eligible for Medicare Extra Help. The administration also announced a series of steps it has taken to fight fraud and keep seniors safe. These benefits were contained in the recently passed health reform bill, *the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*.

“Closing the Part D ‘donut hole’ is a benefit that ensures nearly 90,000 Iowans seniors can afford essential medications and ensure fairness cross the board with state Medicaid programs,” said Harkin. “It is also essential that seniors are kept safe from fraud and scam artists looking to take advantage of seniors and tax payers.”

Steps the Administration has taken to fight fraud include:

- Directing HHS to cut the improper payment rate, which tracks fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare Fee for Services program, in half by 2012.
- Helping support a renewed partnership between the federal government and state Attorneys General. Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Attorney General Eric Holder today sent a letter to state Attorneys General urging them to vigorously prosecute criminals who seek to steal from seniors and taxpayers and pledged the support of federal officials for state efforts.
- Hosting a series of anti-fraud summits hosted by the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services will bring federal, state and local officials together with representatives from the private sector to discuss tactics to fight fraud. The first summit will be held in Miami with additional summits in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Detroit, Boston, New York, and Philadelphia.
- Redoubling of efforts by U.S. Attorneys nationwide to coordinate with state and local law enforcement to prevent and prosecute fraud. Today, Attorney General Holder called on U.S. Attorneys to hold regular forums with local officials to discuss how to better crack down on criminals who commit fraud.

For more information on these programs, click [here](#).