



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

NEAL T. GOOCH
Insurance Commissioner

Insurance Department

For Immediate Release:
June 10, 2010

Contact: Jilene Whitby
(801) 538-3803
jwhitby@utah.gov

\$250 Donut Hole Rebate

Eligible seniors entering the Medicare Part D donut hole this year will receive a tax-free, one time rebate check in the amount of \$250 beginning June 10, 2010. Last year 22,400 Utah Medicare beneficiaries hit the donut hole, or gap in Medicare Part D drug coverage, without receiving extra help to defray their costs.

"Knowing money would be available for this benefit, fraudsters and scam artists around the country have been looking for ways of diverting this money to their pockets," reported Neal T. Gooch, Insurance Commissioner of the Utah Insurance Department. "In some instances seniors have been asked to provide personal information so the checks could be mailed to them. This is a scam," said Commissioner Gooch. "Medicare Beneficiaries who reach the donut hole will get a check mailed to the same address Medicare uses to send them information. Nothing needs to be done to initiate this payment."

The donut hole is the period in the prescription drug benefit in which the beneficiary pays 100% of the cost of their drugs until they hit the catastrophic coverage.

To report possible scams seniors or family members are invited to call 1-800-MEDICARE or the Utah Insurance Department at 801-538-3077 or Toll Free 800-439-3805. They can learn more about the effort to fight these scams by going to www.stopmedicarefraud.gov."

###

The Utah Insurance Department is a state agency whose mandate is to regulate insurance marketed and sold in Utah. Currently they license over 89,000 agents, agencies and insurers; audit domestic insurers to verify financial stability and compliance with insurance laws; take administrative actions against licensees found to be in violation of the insurance laws; take calls from consumers who have questions or complaints; and educate licensees and consumers regarding insurance. Visit our website at <http://www.insurance.utah.gov/> or call our toll free in-state number 1-800-439-3805 or local number 801-538-3077.