



The Medicare Prescription Drug Law: By the Numbers

- Number of seniors and people with disabilities who qualify for Medicare benefits: **40,000,000**
- Percentage of maximum savings most analysts predict Medicare beneficiaries will receive using the “discount” drug card plan: **10% to 15%**
- Percentage increase in price of the 26 drugs most frequently used by seniors since 2000: **21%**
- Lowest price of a one-month supply of Protonix (one of the most commonly prescribed medications) available using a Medicare approved “discount” drug card: **\$87.49**
- Cost of a one-month supply of Protonix imported from Canada: **\$42.06**
- Cost of a one-month supply of Protonix for Veterans: **\$26.83**
- Number of customer service representatives hired to take phone questions from Medicare’s 40 million beneficiaries about the “discount” drug card plan: **1000**
- Number of phone calls placed to Medicare’s drug card help desk the first week the phones opened: **1,600,000**
- Estimated wait time to get through to a Medicare help desk representative: **More than 20 minutes**
- Total contributions made to federal candidates and political parties by the pharmaceutical industry in the 2002 election cycle: **\$29.3 million**
- Total contributions made to Republicans by the pharmaceutical industry in the 2002 election cycle: **\$21.7 million**
- Total contributions made to Democrats by the pharmaceutical industry in the 2002 election cycle: **\$7.6 million**
- Projected windfall the Medicare prescription drug law will produce for major drug companies, including massive tax breaks and payouts to HMO’s: **\$139 billion**

