

Seniors get stuck in Medicare donut hole

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Millions of senior Americans are seeing their drug costs skyrocket after maxing out their early coverage, the Washington Post reported.

The gap in insurance, popularly called the donut hole, is a provision in most of the private plans offered in Medicare's new Part D prescription drug program, the newspaper said.

Under a standard plan this year, Medicare handles 75 percent of drug costs after a deductible until the bill reaches \$2,250. Coverage does not kick in again until those costs total \$5,100.

The very poor, however, are eligible for special subsidies.

The Congressional Budget Office and the Kaiser Family Foundation projected that about 7 million recipients would be affected by the donut hole this year, the newspaper said.

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