



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

Addabbo's Senior Lectures WITH NYS Department of Health, "Epic Changes Coming in January 2013," Continue in October at Ridgewood, Glendale & Middle Village

JOSEPH P. ADDABBO JR September 26, 2012

| ISSUE: **EPIC (ELDERLY PHARMACEUTICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE PROGRAM), SENIORS**

Queens, NY, September 26, 2012 – NYS Senator **Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.**, is co-sponsoring three more "Changes to EPIC" lectures, on **October 2** at **Ridgewood Older Adult Center in Ridgewood**, on **October 11** at the **Sacred Heart Golden Age in Glendale**, and on **October 16** at the **Middle Village Adult Center in Middle Village**, with a representative from the NYS Department of Health's Medicare-EPIC Program, Gema Diaz. The series began in August at senior centers around the senator's district and covers the changes to New York's Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) prescription-drug program, now that the 2012-13 state budget restored \$30.6 million. This will reinstate co-payment assistance for almost 300,000 EPIC enrollees, thereby returning the EPIC program to two plans again.

To help Addabbo's huge senior population in his district conveniently prepare for these January 1, 2013 changes, the senator's office has set the next EPIC lecture series for:

- **Tuesday, 10/02/12 @ 11 AM**, Ridgewood Older Adult Center, 59-14 70th Ave., Ridgewood
- **Thursday, 10/11/12 @ Noon**, Sacred Heart Golden Age, 83-17 78th Ave., Glendale
- **Tuesday, 10/16/12 @ 11 AM**, Middle Village Adult Center, 69-10 75th St., Middle Village

In January 2012, more than a quarter of a million seniors around our state were affected by major cuts to New York's Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) prescription-drug program. Consequently, EPIC provided prescription-drug coverage only after a member fell into the Medicare prescription coverage gap (the "donut hole") when the total drug costs for an individual reached \$2,930.

Currently, seniors enrolled in the EPIC program are forced to pay 25 percent of the cost of each prescription drug. With the co-payment assistance restored, enrollees will return to paying no more than \$20 co-payment for each prescription.

All EPIC members will be notified of the changes, and how they will be affected, by letter. Eligibility requirements remain the same: NYS resident, 65 or older, with income up to \$35,000 single or \$50,000 married. Applicants cannot be receiving full Medicaid benefits but may have a Medicaid spenddown. If a member cancels their Medicare Part D coverage, they will not receive any benefits from EPIC and coverage may be canceled. Members must have Part D in order to receive EPIC benefits and maintain EPIC coverage.

For more information, call Addabbo's two district offices at Howard Beach (718-738-1111) and Middle Village (718-497-1630).

Visit Senator Addabbo online at: <http://addabbo.nysenate.gov> or on Facebook at "Senator Joe Addabbo."

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