



MEDIA ALERT: EXPERT AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS NAVIGATING NEW MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT

WHO: Trudy Lieberman, Director, Center for Consumer Health Choices at Consumers Union.

Award-winning journalist Trudy Lieberman has been investigating and reporting on health insurance issues for more than 20 years. She can help consumers avoid confusion and sort through the options so they can make the right decisions.

WHAT: Approved last week by Congress, the new prescription drug benefit will have a huge and lasting impact on the nation's growing senior population. But it is a complicated package that is causing confusion, uncertainty—even panic—among many Medicare beneficiaries. Ms. Lieberman can answer:

- What choices do seniors need to make in January 2004—just a few weeks away?
- Should you choose to stay with a Medigap policy or switch to an HMO?
- What are the tradeoffs between these two options?
- How can seniors decide whether to purchase the drug discount card, which will become available next year—and what are the tradeoffs?
- What other choices will Medicare beneficiaries need to make—and how to decide among them—when other new benefits kick-in in 2006?

HOW: To arrange an interview or guest appearance with Trudy Lieberman contact the Communications Office at (914) 378-2029 or OPI@consumer.org.

For more information about how Medicare reform affects consumers visit www.ConsumersUnion.org.

NEW MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT - DECEMBER '03

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