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of North Carolina

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coverage in one plan? *Absolutely!*

**Blue Medicare HMO<sup>SM</sup>**  
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*Offering both medical and prescription drug coverage – in a single plan.*

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*Medicare Advantage plans offered by PARTNERS National Health Plans of North Carolina, Inc. (PARTNERS) and administered by its parent company, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC), with over 75 years of service in North Carolina.*

**Call Christopher S. Caton, Vice President of Sales  
Jerry Ballard & Associates, Inc.  
today to learn more about  
our all-in-one plans!**

**1-252-808-0477**

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After business hours: **1-800-665-8037**

Monday – Friday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For the hearing and speech impaired  
(TTY/TDD): **1-888-451-9957**

**Other products offered for Medicare  
beneficiaries include Blue Medicare  
Supplement<sup>SM</sup> and Blue Medicare  
Rx<sup>SM, 2</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B Premium.

<sup>2</sup> BCBSNC is a prescription drug plan sponsor with a Medicare contract. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy, network, premium and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1, 2010. Please contact BCBSNC for details. PARTNERS is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract to provide HMO and PPO plans. BCBSNC and PARTNERS are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

## From Patti Swetz:

Kia Ora from Aoteroa –  
Greetings from New Zealand as the  
native Maori population would say.  
Aoteroa means "Land of the great white  
cloud" or New Zealand as we know it!!!

There is a song sung by the primary  
children at their Christmas Concert every  
year and it best describes the Christmas  
spirit here in New Zealand.

*Finding not angels but  
sheep to be shorn;*

*Wise ones make journeys  
whatever the season,*

*Search for the signs of the  
truth to be born.*

## Carol Our Christmas

*Carol our Christmas, our  
upside down Christmas.*

*Snow is not falling and  
trees are not bare,*

*Carol the summer, and  
welcome the Christ Child,*

*Warm in our sunshine and  
sweetness of air.*

*Sing of the gold and the  
green and the sparkle.*

*Water and river and lure of  
the beach.*

*Sing in the happiness of  
open spaces,*

*Sing a nativity summer  
can reach.*

*Shepherds and musterers  
move over hillsides,*

Here in New Zealand almost everything  
shuts down or is on a skeleton force for the  
holidays. The school year has ended; most  
privately owned businesses have shut  
down until February 2. Pretty much the  
country is off on a six weeks holiday.

The roads are full of RV's, trailers, vans  
etc. as they head for the hills, the lakes or  
the beaches. Many people have cottages  
(cribs) at these locations or they crowd  
into campgrounds and families gather  
together and celebrate Christmas and  
New Year's together.

We did have a Christmas Parade (but  
no Cheerleaders marching) and there  
were Santa's helpers at most of the larger  
department stores. We have daylight until  
almost midnight so there were very few  
outdoor decorations, as strings of lights  
just wouldn't be noticed. However there  
were many New Year's Eve firework  
displays that started at midnight.

This is the season for enjoying  
strawberries, stone fruits (cherries,  
apricots, peaches) and vegetables grown  
in the central part of the country.

I have abandoned my three layers of  
woollies and for the next six weeks will  
enjoy just two layers of woollies with an  
occasional day for shorts, sleeveless T's  
and a bathing suit. The weather, while  
summer, is still variable.

Hope you all enjoyed your holidays as  
much as I did. Along with being with  
five grandboys I am constantly learning  
about the ways and traditions of a most  
beautiful country which I suggest every  
one of you would enjoy visiting.

Ka Kite Ano,  
(see you later)  
Patti