



Medicare Open Enrollment

Medicare Open Enrollment is October 15 - December 7

Your patients' health needs change from year to year. And, their health plan may change the benefits and costs each year too. That's why it's important for everyone to evaluate their Medicare choices each fall. Open Enrollment is the one time of year when ALL people with Medicare can see what new benefits Medicare has to offer and make changes to their coverage.

Whether your patients have Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan, they'll continue to enjoy the same benefits and choices they have now:

- Certain preventive benefits – including cancer screenings – are available at no cost to patients when furnished by qualified and participating health professionals. The annual wellness visit allows people to sit down with their doctors and discuss their health care needs and the best ways to stay healthy.
- Medicare will notify people about plan performance and use its online Plan Finder to encourage enrollment in quality plans.
- In 2015, people who reach the “donut hole” in Medicare’s prescription drug benefit will get a 55% discount on covered brand name drugs and see increased savings on generic drugs.

It's worth it to take the time to review and compare, but your patients don't have to do it alone. Medicare is available to help. Your patients can:

- Visit Medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare current coverage with all of the options that are available in their area, and enroll in a new plan if they decide to make a change.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day/7 days a week to find out more about their coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Review the *Medicare & You 2014* handbook. It is mailed to people with Medicare in September.
- Get one-on-one help from their State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). They can visit Medicare.gov/contacts or call 1-800-MEDICARE to get the phone number.

If they have limited income and resources, they may be able to get Extra Help paying for their prescription drug coverage costs. For more information, they can visit socialsecurity.gov/i1020 or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

This message is brought to you by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.