

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop N2-04-27
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Dear Medicare Beneficiary:

As a person with Medicare, you deserve to get the highest quality medical care when you need it, from doctors that you trust. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is the federal agency that administers the Medicare program and our responsibility is to ensure that you get that high quality care at a reasonable price. One of the ways we can fulfill that responsibility is to find out directly from you about the care you are currently receiving under the Medicare program and your Medicare health plan.

CMS is conducting a survey of people in Medicare health plans to learn more about the health care and services you receive. Your name was selected at random by CMS from among the enrollees in your health plan. We would greatly appreciate it if you would take the time, about 20 minutes, to fill out this questionnaire. The accuracy of the results depends on getting answers from you and other people with Medicare selected for this survey. This is your opportunity to help us, and your health plan, serve you better.

If you changed your Medicare plan for 2009, please answer the questions in the survey thinking about your experiences in the last six months of 2008. All information you provide will be held in confidence and is protected by the Privacy Act. The information you provide will not be shared with anyone other than authorized persons at CMS and Wilkerson & Associates, the survey research organization assisting us in this survey. **You do not have to participate in this survey. Your help is voluntary, and your decision to participate or not to participate will not affect your Medicare benefits in any way.** However, your knowledge and experiences will help other people with Medicare make more informed choices about their health plan, so we hope you will choose to help us.

If you have any questions about the survey or would like to find out how to complete the survey by phone, please don't hesitate to call Chris Allen with Wilkerson & Associates toll-free at 1-866-406-1110, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and midnight Eastern time.

Thank you for your help with this important survey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter Stone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "W" and "S".

Walter Stone
Privacy Officer

MEDICARE SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

This survey asks about you and the health care you received in the last six months. Answer each question thinking about yourself. Please take the time to complete this survey. Your answers are very important to us.

Please return the survey with your answers in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to Wilkerson & Associates.

- ◆ Answer all the questions by putting an “X” in the box to the left of your answer, like this:
 Yes
- ◆ Be sure to read all the answer choices given before marking your answer.
- ◆ You are sometimes told not to answer some questions in this survey. When this happens you will see an arrow with a note that tells you what question to answer next, like this: [→ **If No, Go to Question 3**]. See the examples below:

EXAMPLE

1. Do you wear a hearing aid now?

- Yes
 No → **If No, Go to Question 3**

2. How long have you been wearing a hearing aid?

- Less than one year
 1 to 3 years
 More than 3 years
 I don't wear a hearing aid

3. In the last 6 months, did you have any headaches?

- Yes
 No

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is **0938-0732**. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average **20 minutes** per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

YOUR HEALTH PLAN

1. Our records show that in 2008 your health services were covered by <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>.

Is that right?

- Yes → If Yes, Go to Question 3
 No

2. Please write below the name of the health plan you had in 2008 and complete the rest of the survey based on the experiences you had with that plan. (Please print)
-

YOUR HEALTH CARE IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS

These questions ask about your own health care. Do not include care you got when you stayed overnight in a hospital. Do not include the times you went for dental care visits.

3. In the last 6 months, did you have an illness, injury, or condition that needed care right away in a clinic, emergency room, or doctor's office?

- Yes
 No → If No, Go to Question 5

4. In the last 6 months, when you needed care right away, how often did you get care as soon as you thought you needed?

- Never
 Sometimes
 Usually
 Always

5. In the last 6 months, not counting the times you needed care right away, did you make any appointments for your health care at a doctor's office or clinic?

- Yes
 No → If No, Go to Question 7

6. In the last 6 months, not counting the times you needed care right away, how often did you get an appointment for your health care at a doctor's office or clinic as soon as you thought you needed?

- Never
 Sometimes
 Usually
 Always

7. In the last 6 months, not counting the times you went to an emergency room, how many times did you go to a doctor's office or clinic to get health care for yourself?

- None → **If None, Go to Question 10**
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 to 9
- 10 or more

8. Wait time includes time spent in the waiting room and exam room. In the last 6 months, how often did you see the person you came to see within 15 minutes of your appointment time?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

9. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst health care possible and 10 is the best health care possible, what number would you use to rate all your health care in the last 6 months?

- 0 Worst health care possible
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 Best health care possible

YOUR PERSONAL DOCTOR

10. A personal doctor is the one you would see if you need a check-up, want advice about a health problem, or get sick or hurt. Do you have a personal doctor?

- Yes
- No → **If No, Go to Question 17 on Page 7**

11. In the last 6 months, how many times did you visit your personal doctor to get care for yourself?

- None → **If None, Go to Question 17**
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 to 9
- 10 or more

12. In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor explain things in a way that was easy to understand?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

13. In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor listen carefully to you?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

14. In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor show respect for what you had to say?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

15. In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor spend enough time with you?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

16. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst personal doctor possible and 10 is the best personal doctor possible, what number would you use to rate your personal doctor?

- 0 Worst personal doctor possible
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 Best personal doctor possible

GETTING HEALTH CARE FROM SPECIALISTS

When you answer the next questions, do not include dental visits or care you got when you stayed overnight in a hospital.

17. Specialists are doctors like surgeons, heart doctors, allergy doctors, skin doctors, and other doctors who specialize in one area of health care. In the last 6 months, did you try to make any appointments to see a specialist?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 27 on Page 9

18. In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get appointments with specialists?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

19. In the last 6 months, how often did you have to wait to get an appointment because the specialist you wanted to see was not available any sooner?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

20. How many specialists have you seen in the last 6 months?

- None → If None, Go to Question 27
- 1 specialist
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more specialists

21. We want to know your rating of the specialist you saw most often in the last 6 months. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst specialist possible and 10 is the best specialist possible, what number would you use to rate that specialist?

- 0 Worst specialist possible
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 Best specialist possible

22. Some health plans have a network or group of doctors who belong to the plan. You pay less if you use doctors who belong to the network, and more if you use doctors who are not part of the network.

In the last 6 months, did you visit any specialists who were not part of <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>'s network?

- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
- } Go to Question 27

23. Did the specialist you saw most often in the last 6 months belong to <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>'s network?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

24. In the last 6 months, how often did you visit a specialist who was not part of <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>'s network because the specialist was recommended by one of your doctors?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

25. In the last 6 months, how often did you visit a specialist who was not part of <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>'s network because the specialists in your network were too far away?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

26. In the last 6 months, how often did you visit a specialist who was not part of <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>'s network because you did not have enough specialists to choose from in your network?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

YOUR HEALTH PLAN

The next questions ask about your experience with <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>.

27. In the last 6 months, did you try to get any kind of care, tests, or treatment through <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 29 on Page 10

28. In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get the care, tests or treatment you thought you needed through <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

29. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst health plan possible and 10 is the best health plan possible, what number would you use to rate your health plan?

- 0 Worst health plan possible
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 Best health plan possible

30. Does <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>'s network have enough doctors to choose from?

- Yes
- No

31. In the last 6 months, did you try to find out if a doctor was part of <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>'s network?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 35

32. In the last 6 months, how did you try to find out if a doctor was part of <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>'s network? Please mark one or more.

- I phoned the doctor's office
 - I phoned my health plan's customer service
 - I visited my health plan's web site
 - I asked my employer
 - I looked in my health plan directory or booklet
 - Some other way
(Please print)
-

33. Was the information you found on whether a doctor was part of <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>'s network accurate?

- Yes → If Yes, Go to Question 35
- No
- I did not find → If I did not find the information, Go to Question 35

34. Where did you find the information that was not accurate? Please mark one or more.

- The doctor's office
 - My health plan's customer service
 - My health plan's web site
 - My employer
 - My health plan directory or booklet
 - Some other source
- (Please print)**
-

YOUR MEDICARE RIGHTS

You have the right to file an appeal if <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> decides not to provide or pay for health care services or stops providing health care services.

35. Was there ever a time when you believed you needed care or services that <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> decided not to give you?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 38 on Page 12

36. Have you ever asked anyone at <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> to reconsider a decision not to provide or pay for health care or services?

- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
- } Go to Question 38 on Page 12

37. When you spoke to <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> about the decision not to provide care or services, did they...

Please mark one or more.

- Tell you that you can file an appeal
- Offer to send you forms that you need to file an appeal
- Suggest how to resolve your complaint
- Listen to your complaint but did not help resolve it
- Discourage you from taking action
- Do none of these things

YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

Now, we would like to ask you some questions about the prescription drug coverage you may be eligible for through <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>.

38. In 2008, did <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> cover any of the costs of your prescription medicines?

- Yes
- No

39. Customer service is information you get from staff about what is covered and how to use the plan. In the last 6 months, did you try to get information or help from <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>'s customer service about prescription drugs?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 42

40. In the last 6 months, how often did <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>'s customer service give you the information or help you needed about prescription drugs?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always
- I did not try to get information or help from my health plan's customer service in the last 6 months.

41. In the last 6 months, how often did <YOUR HEALTH PLAN>'s customer service staff treat you with courtesy and respect when you tried to get information or help about prescription drugs?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always
- I did not try to get information or help from my health plan's customer service in the last 6 months.

42. In the last 6 months, did you try to get information from <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> about which prescription medicines were covered?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 44

43. In the last 6 months, how often did <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> give you all the information you needed about which prescription medicines were covered?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always
- I did not try to get information about which prescription medicines were covered in the last 6 months.

44. In the last 6 months, did you try to get information from <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> about how much you would have to pay for your prescription medicines?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 46

45. In the last 6 months, how often did <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> give you all the information you needed about how much you would have to pay for your prescription medicine?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always
- I did not try to get information about how much I would have to pay for prescription medicines in the last 6 months.

46. In the last 6 months, how many different prescription medicines did you fill or have refilled?

- None
- 1 to 2 medicines
- 3 to 5 medicines
- 6 or more medicines

47. In the last 6 months, did a doctor prescribe a medicine for you that <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> did not cover?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 50 on Page 14

48. When this happened, did you contact <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> to ask them to cover the medicine your doctor prescribed?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 50 on Page 14
- All my prescribed medicines were covered.

49. When you contacted <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> about the decision not to cover a prescription medicine did they . . .

Please mark one or more

- Tell you that you can file an appeal
- Offer to send you forms that you need to file an appeal
- Suggest how to resolve your complaint
- Listen to your complaint but did not help to resolve it
- Discourage you from taking action
- Do none of these things
- All my prescribed medicines were covered.

50. In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to use <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> to get the medicines your doctor prescribed?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always
- I did not use my health plan to get any prescription medicines in the last 6 months.

51. In the last 6 months, did you ever use <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> to fill a prescription at a local pharmacy?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 53

52. In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to use <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> to fill a prescription at a local pharmacy?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always
- I did not use my health plan to fill a prescription at a local pharmacy in the last 6 months.

53. In the last 6 months, did you ever use <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> to fill any prescriptions by mail?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 55

54. In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to use <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> to fill prescriptions by mail?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always
- I did not use my health plan to fill a prescription by mail in the last 6 months.

55. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst plan possible and 10 is the best plan possible, what number would you use to rate <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> for coverage of prescription drugs?

- 0 Worst prescription drug plan possible
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 Best prescription drug plan possible

56. Would you recommend <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> for coverage of prescription drugs to other people like yourself?

- Definitely yes
- Somewhat yes
- Somewhat no
- Definitely no

ABOUT YOU

57. In general, how would you rate your overall health?

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

58. In general, how would you rate your overall mental health?

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

59. In the past 12 months, have you seen a doctor or other health provider 3 or more times for the same condition or problem?

- Yes
- No → **If No, Go to Question 61 on Page 16**

60. Is this a condition or problem that has lasted for at least 3 months?

- Yes
- No

61. Do you now need or take medicine prescribed by a doctor?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 64

62. Is this to treat a condition that has lasted for at least 3 months?

- Yes
- No

63. How often do you take a list of all your prescribed medicines to your doctor visits?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always
- I do not take any prescription medicines.

64. In the last 6 months, did you ever delay or not fill a prescription because you felt that you could not afford it?

- Yes
- No
- My doctor did not prescribe any medicines for me in the last 6 months

65. How confident are you that you can identify when it is necessary for you to get medical care?

- Very confident
- Confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not at all confident

66. Because of any impairment or health problem, do you need the help of other persons with your personal care needs, such as eating, dressing, or getting around the house?

- Yes
- No

67. Because of any impairment or health problem, do you need help with your routine needs, such as everyday household chores, doing necessary business, shopping, or getting around for other purposes?

- Yes
- No

68. Do you have a physical or medical condition that seriously interferes with your independence, participation in the community, or quality of life?

- Yes
- No

69. Have you had a flu shot since September 1, 2008?

- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
- } Go to Question 71

70. Did you get that flu shot either through <YOUR HEALTH PLAN> or from your personal doctor?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

71. Have you ever had a pneumonia shot? This shot is usually given only once or twice in a person's lifetime and is different from the flu shot. It is also called the pneumococcal vaccine.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

72. Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?

- Every day
 - Some days
 - Not at all
 - Don't know
- } Go to Question 74

73. In the last 6 months, on how many visits were you advised to quit smoking by a doctor or other health provider in your plan?

- None
- At least one visit
- I had no visits in the last 6 months.

74. What is your age?

- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 69
- 70 to 74
- 75 to 79
- 80 to 84
- 85 or older

75. Are you male or female?

- Male
- Female

76. What is the highest grade or level of school that you have completed?

- 8th grade or less
- Some high school, but did not graduate
- High school graduate or GED
- Some college or 2-year degree
- 4-year college graduate
- More than 4-year college degree

77. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent?

- Yes, Hispanic or Latino
- No, not Hispanic or Latino

78. What is your race? Please mark one or more.

- White
- Black or African-American
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaska Native

79. Did someone help you complete this survey?

- Yes
- No → If No, Go to Question 81

80. How did that person help you? Please mark one or more.

- Read the questions to me
 - Wrote down the answers I gave
 - Answered the questions for me
 - Translated the questions into my language
 - Helped in some other way
(Please print)
-

81. Do you live alone?

- Yes, I live alone
- No, I live with others

Earlier in the survey you were asked to indicate whether you have any limitations in your activities. We are now going to ask a few additional questions in this area.

82. Because of a health or physical problem are you unable to do or have any difficulty doing the following activities? (Please mark one response for each activity.)

	<u>I am unable to do this activity</u>	<u>Yes, I have difficulty</u>	<u>No, I do not have difficulty</u>
a. Bathing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Dressing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Eating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Getting in or out of chairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Using the toilet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

83. The Medicare Program is trying to learn more about the health care or services provided to people with Medicare. May we contact you again about the health care services that you received?

- Yes
- No

84. Please write your daytime telephone number below.

- -

Area Code

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY.

Please return your completed survey in the postage paid envelope to:

**Medicare Satisfaction Survey
PO Box 1800
Manchester, CT 06045-9989**

