Chapter 10: Ending your membership in our plan

Introduction

This chapter tells about ways you can end your membership in our plan and your health coverage options after you leave the plan. If you leave our plan, you will still be in Medicare and Medical Assistance (Medicaid) as long as you are eligible. Key terms and their definitions appear in alphabetical order in the last chapter of the *Member Handbook*.

[Plans should edit this chapter as needed if the plan can continue to provide Medicaid coverage when the member disenrolls from the Medicare plan or if the member is required to belong to a health plan to get Medicaid benefits.]

[Plans should refer members to other parts of the handbook using the appropriate chapter number, section, and/or page number. For example, "refer to Chapter 9, Section A, page 1." An instruction [plans may insert reference, as applicable] is listed next to each cross reference throughout the handbook.]

[Plans must update the Table of Contents to this document to accurately reflect where the information is found on each page after plan adds plan-customized information to this template.]

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# When you can end your membership in our plan

Most people with Medicare can end their membership during certain times of the year. Because you have Medicaid, you may be able to end your membership in our plan or switch to a different plan one time during each of the following **Special Enrollment Periods**:

* January to March
* April to June
* July to September

In addition to these three Special Enrollment periods, you may end your membership in our plan during the following periods:

* The **Annual Enrollment Period**, which lasts from October 15 to December 7. If you choose a new plan during this period, your membership in <plan name> will end on December 31 and your membership in the new plan will start on January 1.
* The **Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period**, which lasts from January 1 to March 31. If you choose a new plan during this period, your membership in the new plan will start the first day of the next month.

There may be other situations when you are eligible to make a change to your enrollment. For example, such as when:

* You have moved out of our service area,
* Your eligibility for Medicaid or Extra Help has changed, **or**
* You are getting care in a nursing home or a long-term care hospital.

Your membership will end on the last day of the month that we get your request to change your plan. For example, if we get your request on January 18, your coverage with our plan will end on January 31. Your new coverage will begin the first day of the next month (February 1, in this example). If you leave our plan, you can get information about your:

* Medicare options in the table in Section C1 of this chapter [plans may insert reference, as applicable].
* Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services in Section C2 of this chapter [plans may insert reference, as applicable].

You can get more information about when you can end your membership by calling:

* Member Services at the number at the bottom of this page. The number for TTY users is listed too.
* State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at 1-800-333-2433. In Minnesota, the SHIP is called the Senior LinkAge Line®. TTY MN Relay 711 users should call 711 or use your preferred relay service. These calls are free.
* Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

**NOTE:** If you are in a drug management program, you may not be able to change plans. Refer to Chapter 5 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] for information about drug management programs.

# How to end your membership in our plan

When you end your membership in our plan, you can enroll in another Medicare plan or switch to Original Medicare. However, if you want to switch from our plan to Original Medicare but you have not selected a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, you must ask to be disenrolled from our plan. There are two ways you can ask to be disenrolled:

* You can make a request in writing to us. Contact Member Services at the number at the bottom of this page if you need more information on how to do this.
* Call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users (people who have difficulty hearing or speaking) should call 1-877-486-2048. When you call 1-800-MEDICARE, you can also enroll in another Medicare health or drug plan. More information on getting your Medicare services when you leave our plan is in the table in Section C of this chapter.

# How to get Medicare and Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services separately

## C1. Ways to get your Medicare services

You will have a choice about how you get your Medicare benefits.

You have three options for getting your Medicare services. By choosing one of these options, you will automatically end your membership in our plan.

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| --- | --- |
| **1. You can change to:**  **A Medicare health plan, such as a Medicare Advantage plan or a Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and** [insert as applicable: **another choice for Medical Assistance (Medicaid)** or **stay with the current Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services**] | **Here is what to do:**  Call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.  If you need help or more information:   * Call the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at 1-800-333-2433 (TTY MN Relay 711 users call 711 or use your preferred relay service). In Minnesota, the SHIP is called the Senior LinkAge Line®. These calls are free.   You will automatically be disenrolled from <plan name> when your new plan’s coverage begins.  If you choose to leave our plan, you will be automatically enrolled in our plan’s Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+) plan for your Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services if our MSC+ plan is offered in your county. You can ask in writing to be enrolled in the MSC+ plan you were enrolled in before our plan’s MSHO enrollment. If our plan does not have an MSC+ plan in your county, you will be enrolled in the MSC+ plan that is available in your county. Contact your county financial worker if you have questions. If you currently have a medical spenddown and you choose to leave our plan, your Medical Assistance (Medicaid) will be provided fee-for-service. You will not be enrolled in another health plan for Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services. |
| **2. You can change to:**  **Original Medicare with a separate Medicare prescription drug plan and** [insert as applicable: **another choice for Medical Assistance****(Medicaid)** or **stay with the current Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services**] | **Here is what to do:**  Call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.  If you need help or more information:   * Call the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at 1-800-333-2433 (TTY MN Relay 711 users call 711 or use your preferred relay service). In Minnesota, the SHIP is called the Senior LinkAge Line®. These calls are free.   You will automatically be disenrolled from <plan name> when your Original Medicare coverage begins.  If you choose to leave our plan, you will be automatically enrolled in our plan’s Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+) plan for your Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services if our MSC+ plan is offered in your county. You can ask in writing to be enrolled in the MSC+ plan you were enrolled in before our plan’s MSHO enrollment. If our plan does not have an MSC+ plan in your county, you will be enrolled in the MSC+ plan that is available in your county. Contact your county financial worker if you have questions. If you currently have a medical spenddown and you choose to leave our plan, your Medical Assistance (Medicaid) will be provided fee-for-service. You will not be enrolled in another health plan for Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services. |
| **3. You can change to:**  **Original Medicare without a separate Medicare prescription drug plan and** [*insert as applicable:* **another choice for Medical Assistance (Medicaid)** *or* **stay with the current Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services**]  **NOTE:** If you switch to Original Medicare and do not enroll in a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you tell Medicare you don’t want to join.  You should only drop prescription drug coverage if you have drug coverage from another source, such as an employer or union. If you have questions about whether you need drug coverage, call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433 (TTY users call 711 or use your preferred relay service). | **Here is what to do:**  Call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.  If you need help or more information:   * Call the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at 1-800-333-2433 (TTY MN Relay 711 users call 711 or use your preferred relay service). In Minnesota, the SHIP is called the Senior LinkAge Line®. These calls are free.   You will automatically be disenrolled from <plan name> when your Original Medicare coverage begins.  If you choose to leave our plan, you will be automatically enrolled in our plan’s Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+) plan for your Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services if our MSC+ plan is offered in your county. You can ask in writing to be enrolled in the MSC+ plan you were enrolled in before our plan’s MSHO enrollment. If our plan does not have an MSC+ plan in your county, you will be enrolled in the MSC+ plan that is available in your county. Contact your county financial worker if you have questions. If you currently have a medical spenddown and you choose to leave our plan, your Medical Assistance (Medicaid) will be provided fee-for-service. You will not be enrolled in another health plan for Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services. |

## C2. How to get your Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services

If you leave our plan, you will be automatically enrolled in our plan’s Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+) plan for your Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services.

You can ask in writing to be enrolled in the MSC+ plan you were enrolled in before our plan’s MSHO enrollment. Contact your county financial worker if you have questions.

If you currently have a medical spenddown and you choose to leave our plan, your Medical Assistance (Medicaid) will be provided fee-for-service. You will not be enrolled in another health plan for Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services.

# How to keep getting your medical services and drugs through our plan until your membership ends

If you leave <plan name>, it may take time before your membership ends and your new Medicare and Medical Assistance (Medicaid) coverage begins. Refer to Section C [plans may insert reference, as applicable] for more information. During this time, you will keep getting your health care and drugs through our plan.

* **You should use our network pharmacies to get your prescriptions filled.** Usually, your prescription drugs are covered only if they are filled at a network pharmacy[insert if applicable:including through our mail-order pharmacy services].
* **If you are hospitalized on the day that your membership ends, your hospital stay will usually be covered by our plan until you are discharged.** This will happen even if your new health coverage begins before you are discharged.

# Other situations when your membership will end

These are the cases when <plan name> must end your membership in the plan:

* If there is a break in your Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B coverage.
* If you no longer qualify for Medical Assistance (Medicaid). Our plan is for people who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid.
* If you have Medicare and lose eligibility for Medical Assistance (Medicaid), our plan will continue to provide plan benefits for up to three months.
* If after three months you have not regained Medical Assistance (Medicaid), coverage with our plan will end.
* You will need to choose a new Medicare Part D plan in order to continue getting coverage for Medicare covered drugs.
* If you need help, you can call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433 (TTY MN Relay 711 users call 711 or use your preferred relay service). These calls are free.
* If you do not pay your medical spenddown, as applicable.
* If you move out of our service area.
* If you are away from our service area for more than six months. [Plans with visitor/traveler benefits should revise this bullet to indicate when members must be disenrolled from the plan.]
* If you move or take a long trip, you need to call Member Services to find out if the place you are moving or traveling to is in our plan’s service area.
* [Plans with visitor/traveler benefits, insert: Refer to Chapter 4 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] for information on getting care when you are away from the service area through our plan’s visitor/traveler benefits.]
* If you go to jail or prison for a criminal offense.
* If you lie about or withhold information about other insurance you have for prescription drugs.
* If you are not a United States citizen or are not lawfully present in the United States.
* You must be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States to be a member of our plan.
* The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will notify us if you aren’t eligible to remain a member on this basis.
* We must disenroll you if you don’t meet this requirement.

We can make you leave our plan for the following reasons only if we get permission from Medicare and Medical Assistance (Medicaid) first:

* If you intentionally give us incorrect information when you are enrolling in our plan and that information affects your eligibility for our plan.
* If you continuously behave in a way that is disruptive and makes it difficult for us to arrange medical care for you and other members of our plan.
* If you let someone else use your Member ID Card to get medical care.
* If we end your membership because of this reason, Medicare may have your case investigated by the Inspector General.

# Rules against asking you to leave our plan for any health-related reason

If you feel that you are being asked to leave our plan for a health-related reason, you should call Medicareat 1‑800‑MEDICARE (1‑800‑633‑4227). TTY users should call 1‑877‑486‑2048. You may call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You should also call the Ombudsman for Public Managed Health Care Programs at 651-431-2660 or 1-800-657-3729. TTY MN Relay 711 users should call 1-800-627-3529 or 711 or use your preferred relay service. These calls are free.

# Your right to make a complaint if we end your membership in our plan

If we end your membership in our plan, we must tell you our reasons in writing for ending your membership. We must also explain how you can file a grievance or make a complaint about our decision to end your membership. You can also refer to Chapter 9 [plans may insert reference, as applicable] for information about how to make a complaint.

# How to get more information about ending your plan membership

If you have questions or would like more information on ending your membership, you can call Member Services at the number at the bottom of this page.