



Medicare Open Enrollment

Medicare Open Enrollment is October 15 - December 7

Your patients' health needs change from year to year and their health plans may change benefits and costs each year too. That's why it's important for all Medicare beneficiaries to evaluate their coverage choices each fall. Encourage your patients to compare their current plan to new options so that they can see if they can lower their costs or find a plan that better suits their needs. Open Enrollment is the one time of year when ALL Medicare beneficiaries can see what new benefits options 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 many of the same benefits and choices they have now, including:

- Certain preventive benefits – including certain cancer screenings – are available at no cost to you when provided by qualified and participating health professionals. The annual wellness visit lets you sit down with your doctor to discuss your health care needs and the best ways to stay healthy.
- Medicare will notify you about plan performance and the ability to use its online Plan Finder to compare and enroll in quality plans.
- In 2016, if people in the “donut hole” in Medicare’s prescription drug benefit, they will save 55 percent on covered brand-name drugs and see increased savings on generic drugs while in the donut hole.

It's worth it for your patients to take the time to review and compare their coverage options, and they 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 2016* handbook. It is mailed to people with Medicare in September and is also available online at Medicare.gov.
- 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.