Agenda

• This session will provide the following information:
  • Medicare Annual Open Enrollment
  • How to compare Medicare plans
  • How to join a new plan
  • Medigap and Open Enrollment
  • Medicare vs Marketplace
Open Enrollment for People with Medicare

- From October 15 to December 7 you can
  - Join or switch a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan
  - Join or switch a Medicare Advantage Plan
- Take time to review and compare health and drug plan choices
  - Choose and enroll in the plan that fits your needs
- Coverage begins on January 1, 2018
Why Compare Plans

- Each year
  - Medicare Plans can change costs and coverage
  - Plans mail Evidence of Coverage/Annual Notice of Change
    - Gives details about plan coverage, costs, etc. for the next year
- Some plans may choose to leave Medicare
- NCOA Open Enrollment Fact Sheet
Where to Get Plan Information

- Medicare Plan Finder on Medicare.gov/find-a-plan/
- Contact the Plan or visit the Plan website
- The “Medicare & You” handbook
- 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) shiptacenter.org
- BenefitsCheckUp®: www.BenefitsCheckUp.org
Visit [Medicare.gov/find-a-plan](https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan)  
- Compare the cost ranges for Plans in your area.  
- See which drugs are on the Plan’s formulary  
- Check the Plan’s star rating  
- 5 star and low performing plan icons
How to Join a New Plan During Annual Open Enrollment

▪ May be able to enroll in a Medicare Health Plan or Medicare Prescription Drug Plan by
  • Calling the plan
  • Enrolling on the plan’s website or on Medicare.gov
  • Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

▪ Paper application

▪ Enrolling in a new plan will disenroll you from your previous plan
Medicare Advantage Plans and Open Enrollment

If you’re in a Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan

- You can switch to another MA Plan by joining a new MA Plan
- You’ll be automatically disenrolled from your old plan
- You can switch back to Original Medicare by joining a stand-alone Medicare drug plan
  - If you do, you should consider/see if you can get a Medigap policy
Leaving a Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan

Between January 1–February 14, you can leave an MA Plan and switch to Original Medicare

▶ If you make this change, you may also join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan to add drug coverage
  • Coverage begins the first of the month after the plan gets enrollment form

▶ Check whether you could get a Medigap policy
If You Have Other Coverage

IMPORTANT

• If you have other coverage, like from an employer or union
  ▶ Check with your plan’s benefits administrator before making any changes to your coverage
  ▶ Otherwise, you could lose coverage for you and your dependents
Medigap and Open Enrollment

- If you drop a Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan and join Original Medicare during the Open Enrollment Period
  - There’s **no guarantee** that an insurance company will sell you a Medigap policy
  - You may have to meet medical underwriting requirements unless you have a guaranteed issue right
    - Within the first 6 months of receiving Part B
    - If your MA Plan leaves Medicare
    - States have different rules and protections
- Contact Medigap insurers in your area to see what policies might be available to you
Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplace

- Medicare isn’t part of the Marketplace

- Medigap policies, Medicare Advantage Plans, and stand-alone Part D plans are not sold through Marketplaces

- The Medicare OEP and Marketplace OEP have dates that overlap but they’re different
  - Medicare OEP is October 15-December 7
  - Marketplace OEP is November 1-December 15
Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplace

- In most cases, beneficiaries should enroll in Medicare when eligible or potentially face:
  - Gaps in coverage and late enrollment penalties
  - Loss of tax credits for those with QHP, meaning individual will pay higher monthly premiums to keep QHP coverage

- Medicare Part A and Medicare Advantage Plan coverage qualifies as minimum essential coverage
Resources from NCOA

- Guide to Mailings & Key Events: [https://www.ncoa.org/resources.medicare-open-enrollment-guide-to-mailings-key-events/](https://www.ncoa.org/resources.medicare-open-enrollment-guide-to-mailings-key-events/)
- My Medicare Matters® educational site and personalized decision support tool: [www.mymedicarematters.org](http://www.mymedicarematters.org)
Contact

Ann Kayrish: Ann.Kayrish@ncoa.org

Visit us online at:

www.ncoa.org
www.ncoa.org/centerforbenefits
www.facebook.com/NCOAging
www.twitter.com/NCOAging

Locate a SHIP for local Medicare help www.shiptacenter.org
**Medicare’s Basic Benefit:** Besides the monthly premium, you pay ...

100% of your annual deductible (max. $405)

25% of prescription costs during your Initial Coverage Period
($937 for someone with no deductible; $836.25 for someone in $405 deductible plan)

You reach the $3,750 drug coverage limit — you’re headed for the donut hole.

Before the Affordable Care Act: You paid 100% out-of-pocket while in the donut hole.

Your drug costs have reached $7,508.75 and catastrophic coverage begins.
(You pay 5%, or $3.35 for generics and $8.35 for brand-name drugs, whichever is greater.)

Donut Hole/Coverage Gap = drug costs of $3,750 to $7,508.75

After the Affordable Care Act: In 2018, you pay 35% for brand-name drugs and 44% for generics while in the donut hole.

**Need help paying for drugs?**
You may be eligible for Extra Help. Visit BenefitsCheckUp.org or ssa.gov/prescriptionhelp to apply.

For more information, visit ncoa.org

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