

Medicare Open Enrollment Dates Change

Medicare open enrollment dates change this fall! If you are planning to change your enrollment in either a Medicare Advantage Plan or a stand-alone Part D Drug Plan, you will need to make those enrollment changes **between October 15 and December 7, 2011** for an effective date of **January 1, 2012**.

This change in dates should assure that you will receive your new “member ID card” prior to the January 1, 2012 effective date. Beneficiaries will be able to review the new Medicare Advantage plans that will be available for the calendar year 2012 on www.medicare.gov beginning October 1, 2011. Part D Drug Plans will also be listed on the website. If you are eligible for low-income subsidy assistance with your prescription drug plan, pay attention to the plans which are designated as “**\$0 PREMIUM WITH FULL LOW-INCOME SUBSIDY.**” Each of these plans is clearly marked and will assure that you will get the benefits to which you are entitled.

On approximately September 30th, Medicare Advantage Plans and Part D Drug Plans will be sending out letters to their members announcing changes for 2012. These letters are referred to as the “Annual Notice of Change—ANOC letters.” If you are satisfied with your Medicare Advantage Plan or your Part D Drug Plan and the **notification outlines benefit changes for 2012** that will not affect you adversely, you may choose to keep the plan you have. But if the plan, for example, no longer covers the medications that you are currently taking, you may wish to change to another plan that better meets your needs.

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