



November 1, 2019

Medicare Open Enrollment Now Through Dec .7

Medicare's annual Open Enrollment period began Oct. 15 and runs through Dec 7, 2019. The Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) and the Ohio Department of Insurance encourage all Ohioans with Medicare to review their prescription drug and health insurance coverage options to ensure they are choosing the best plan to meet their needs and budgets.

A press release from the ODA explains that during open enrollment, Ohioans with Medicare can stay on original Medicare and shop for a stand-alone Part D prescription drug plan. Or can select a Medicare Advantage Plan, which provides comprehensive health benefits that typically includes prescription drug coverage.

Even Ohioans planning to stay with their existing coverage are encouraged to confirm that their coverage continues to meet their health insurance needs. An individual's overall health and insurance needs can change from year to year, and plans can change as well. The ODA suggests that people with Medicare use this time to learn about recent Medicare updates plus financial assistance programs.

"Choosing the right Medicare plan is making a plan for your future," said Ursel J. McElroy, ODA Director. The Ohio Department of Insurance offers Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIPP) counselors throughout the state during open enrollment to provide free, unbiased assistance to evaluate Medicare plans and providers.

(OSHIPP) is hosting Medicare Check-Up events throughout the state to help consumers objectively compare plans and learn about their options and available assistance. View a calendar of Medicare Check-Up events at www.insurance.ohio.gov. For counties whose Medicare Check-Up events are past or for those unable to attend a Medicare Check-Up event, contact **OSHIPP at 1-800-686-1578 or call Medicare at 1-800-633-4227.**