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Your Update from AgeOptions

December 2018

AgeOptions Contributes to National News Story On Problems with New Medicare Advantage Benefits

Georgia Gerdes, AgeOptions health care choices specialist, was quoted in a story about Medicare Advantage benefits that appeared in newspapers and on television stations nationwide in November and December.

Kaiser Health News writer Susan Jaffe interviewed Georgia for the story on highly touted new Medicare Advantage benefits that are difficult to find and qualify for.

The story explains that some Medicare Advantage plans will offer a host of new benefits next year, but that the new benefits will not be widely available and they won't be easy to find. It reports that Medicare counselors say key details are not included on the government's website.

Quoting Georgia, the story says: "In some cases, if insurers offer the new benefits, the plan finder will indicate 'yes' or 'no,'" said Georgia Gerdes, a health care choices specialist at AgeOptions, the Area Agency on Aging in Oak Park, Illinois, outside Chicago. That's hardly enough."

To read the entire story, click on the [CNN](#) or [Time](#) version.

Medicare beneficiaries can get help comparing their health plan options by calling AgeOptions, (800)699-9043, or the Illinois Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), (800)252-8966.

Medicare beneficiaries can make changes to their plans during the annual open enrollment period, which ends December 7. Illinois Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) at AgeOptions offers

detailed information about open enrollment and resources to help compare plans and avoid fraud: [Medicare Open Enrollment and Marketing Fraud: Making a Choice that is Right for You.](#)