

Medicare Open Enrollment runs through Dec. 7

Written by Staff reports
Friday, 09 November 2018 06:49

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department is reminding New Mexicans that Medicare Open Enrollment began the week of Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 7. Changes made during this period will take effect on Jan. 1, 2019.

Medicare is federal health care coverage for those 65 and older, certain younger people with disabilities and people with end-stage renal disease.

During open enrollment, participants can:

Adjust Medicare Advantage or Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Change from original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan (or vice versa).

Switch between Medicare Advantage plans.

Join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.

Switch existing drug plans or drop Medicare prescription drug coverage.

“Open enrollment is an important time to review Medicare coverage and make sure you have a plan that best fits your needs,” Kyky Knowles, acting Aging and Long-Term Services secretary, said. “Whether you are inquiring on your own behalf, or you are a family caregiver looking for Medicare insurance that provides the best value for your loved one, the resources we provide can help you navigate the open enrollment process and make it a little less overwhelming.”

The Department’s Aging and Disability Resource Center is available to assist anyone who has

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questions during Medicare Open Enrollment. The ADRC provides neutral and unbiased information about prescription drug plans or Medicare Advantage plans. These resources are available at no cost.

Additionally, the ADRC is available from 7:45 am to 5 pm. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) to provide assistance. Contact the ADRC toll free at 1 (800) 432-2080.

Additionally, the ADRC and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program are hosting meetings throughout the enrollment period to answer questions in person about Medicare Open Enrollment.

These meetings, held throughout the state, are designed to offer help to individuals who may want to switch their plan or newly enroll into a Medicare prescription drug plan or Medicare Health Plan. To see the full list of meetings, visit nmaging.state.nm.us , and click on the Special Events tab. Some meetings are by appointment only and others are walk-in.

Screening for Extra Help, which assists with paying for prescription drug costs, will also be provided. Please bring your prescriptions, or a list of all medications you take including the full name of the drug, the strength, and the dosage.