

# Insurance Solutions June Newsletter



A look at some important trends that will affect you

## 7 Common Medicare Mistakes People Make

The Annual Enrollment Period for Medicare is approaching. Here are seven of the most common mistakes people make. First, understand what AEP is... It is **ONLY** a time for people with Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare Part D drug plans review plan changes to make sure they still have the best plan. Your Medicare Supplement does not change or require a renewal.

**Not Signing Up on Time** - The initial enrollment period for Medicare begins three months either side of your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you fail to enroll during that period, you will have penalty fees as long as you remain on Medicare.

**Not Enrolling in a Separate Part D Prescription Drug Plan with Original Medicare** - Make sure you sign up for a Part D plan or have creditable coverage - even if you don't take any drugs. If you fail to enroll in a Part D plan, and do not have creditable drug coverage then you will pay a penalty in the form of higher premiums for the entire time you remain on Medicare.

**Not Understanding How Medicare Coordinates with Your Current Coverage** - If you're still working at age 65, it's essential to determine how your current health insurance and Medicare will coordinate. Size of your employer and type of coverage make a difference.

**Not Educating Yourself on The Differences Between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage** - For brevity, Original Medicare, a Medicare Supplement, and a Part D drug plan will provide greater flexibility in the choice of providers and more comprehensive coverage than will a Medicare Advantage Plan. A Medicare Advantage Plan will provide good coverage, be less costly and offer some benefits (such as dental and vision) that are not included in with Original Medicare, a supplement, and Part D. This is an individual choice, choose carefully, it can be a lifetime decision.

## 7 Common Medicare Mistakes People Make

**Not Checking the Insurer's Formulary** - The formulary is a list of all the medications that a plan covers. You should study the formulary of your plan. If you get a prescription filled that's not on the formulary, you'll either need to pay out-of-pocket, ask for an exception or file an appeal.

**Signing Up for Automatic Renewal** - Automatic renewal can come at a steep price . Your Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage plan will renew every year on January 1. However, plans change their benefits and formularies and the total you'll pay in premiums, deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance. Take the time to review your plan's changes and that it still meets your needs.

**Not Reading the Small Print on Medicare Advantage Plans** - It might seem like you're getting a free gym membership, and more, there are often strings attached. Regarding those commercials featuring famous personalities selling Medicare Advantage plans, be wary. People get sucked down the rabbit hole to changing their plan. Read the fine print!

Each of these items may be confusing to you. Please call **925-519-1867** at any time to discuss anything. Your medical and drug coverage is essential to your well-being and my role is to make certain you understand and can make informed decisions that are right for you.