

# Closing out Enrollment Season for 2023

Happy Holiday Season! It's time to start cozying up by the fire, spend time with loved ones, and take advantage of the last opportunities to add or switch health plans for 2023!

If you are a Medicare beneficiary enrolled in an Advantage plan, the Annual Enrollment Period for 2023, ends on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Most folks in our area have kept their current Advantage plans for 2023. Benefits are improving across a variety of Advantage Plans, but not all in the same ways. Depending on what you anticipate your healthcare needs will be in 2023, it may be worth your while to compare plans for next year. If you like the doctor(s) you currently see, they remain in your network and your prescriptions are still covered in 2023, most likely you'll be staying put. It's a good idea to verify these things before AEP ends.

More good news is the bombardment of Medicare advertising over the past few months ought to be ending soon. Remember, all those major commercial ads that entice you with a massive list of benefits "you may qualify for" compile their list by scanning the best benefits across many different plans. Truth is, you probably already have the benefits you're eligible for with the plan you've got. And in order to get a plan that has no copayments and free prescription drugs, you must qualify for both Medicaid and Medicare. When people switch Advantage plans, it's usually because they expect to be using their insurance differently next year, and the distribution of another plan's benefits may better align with their needs.

If you switched plans because of increased dental or other benefits, pay attention to network requirements. Many plans offer acupuncture and chiropractic benefits, but it may be difficult to find a practitioner that accepts your plan. A search for in-network providers can be done on your carrier's website. If an Advantage plan you switched to this season doesn't live up to your expectations, you can make one change between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Open Enrollment Period (OEP) for 2023.

Get your health insurance through Connect for Health Colorado? The Open Enrollment Period lasts until January 15<sup>th</sup>. If you need coverage for the first of the year, be sure to enroll by December 15<sup>th</sup>. And if you are currently on a Bright Health plan and haven't chosen a new carrier for 2023, be sure to switch by December 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid any gap in coverage. Individual plans for 2023 are generally seeing higher premiums and some reduced benefits. How the cuts have been distributed does vary by plan, so how you use your health benefits will be a major factor for determining which plan will best work for you next year.

Enrolling in the right health plan for your needs can feel overwhelming and complex. That's why the free services of a local, certified Medicare broker can be invaluable. Give us a call and we'd be happy to help!