

HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATES

August turned out to be a very busy month for insurance! When Friday Health Plan announced it was leaving our market this summer, expectations were that changes were not imminent, but that changed! As physicians around the state started getting nervous about being reimbursed by Friday through the end of 2023, the Department of Insurance decided to open a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) and close out Friday Health Plans as of August 31st. If you had a Friday plan, you've been well informed, and hopefully you had the opportunity to switch carriers by the end of August for a September 1st start date. If you had a Friday plan and have not enrolled with another carrier, you would be without health insurance as of September 1st. You can still enroll in September for an October 1st start date, or October for a November 1st start date. If you need help, please give us a call!

For those of you that live in the Conifer/Evergreen area, Providers have made some changes lately regarding which insurance carriers they accept. Anthem Pathway X HMO plans, Cigna Connect plans, and United Healthcare RMHP Doctor plans are generally what are now accepted. Some folks are finding out the hard way that their plan is no longer accepted by their physician, so make a point to check with your provider and ensure the plan you have is still a plan they accept before obtaining services.

As of this writing, we still don't have access to the 2024 individual plans. I expect to be able to see those in October just before the November 1st open enrollment period.

Regarding Medicare options, the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) starts on October 15th and runs until December 7th. Brokers and carriers are not allowed to discuss the 2024 plans until October 1st and can't take new applications for 2024 until October 15th.

As a reminder, for those of you turning 65 or retiring and coming off your employer plan, if you are not collecting social security, you need to request your Medicare card with both Parts A & B. You must be enrolled in both in order to add a Medicare Supplement plan or a Medicare Advantage plan.

You can initiate your enrollment up to three months before you want your plan will go into effect. For example, if you are turning 65 in January, you should request your Medicare card in October. After you apply, which can be done at a social security office or online at www.ssa.gov/medicare, it will take at least 30 days to process your application. You can't apply for an Advantage Plan without your Medicare number showing both Parts A & B effective dates, which are typically the first day of your birth month.

If you stayed on an employer plan after age 65, my recommendation is to request your Medicare card three months before you want your Medicare plan to go into effect. If you need help with this, please call us!