



Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin

NEWS

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2017 Medicare Open Enrollment Period Underway

RALEIGH— Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin and the staff of the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), are hard at work reminding Medicare beneficiaries of this important enrollment period and deadline for Part D.

The Open Enrollment Period is an opportunity to review, compare and choose Medicare prescription drug coverage Medicare beneficiaries are encouraged to call SHIIP at 855-408-1212 or 1-800-MEDICARE for free and unbiased help in choosing a drug plan. Open enrollment ends Dec. 7, 2016.

Drug plans vary from year to year, so it is important that Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers explore their options during each Open Enrollment Period. Many Medicare beneficiaries who have called the SHIIP office will save several hundred to several thousand dollars in the coming year because they are changing their prescription drug plan.

It is well worth your time to review and compare your options and you don't have to do it alone. Remember that representatives from Medicare and SHIIP are available to help.

- Visit www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare your current coverage with all of the options that are available in your area and enroll in a new plan if you decide to make a change.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227) 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 877-486-2048.
- Review the Medicare & You 2017 handbook. It was mailed to Medicare beneficiaries in September.
- Get one-on-one help from SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, by calling 855-408-1212, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and can assist anyone with questions about Medicare Part D coverage information and enrollment. Trained SHIIP counselors are available for one-on-one counseling appointments in all 100 North Carolina counties. For more information, contact SHIIP at 855-408-1212 or visit www.ncshiip.com.