

Health Insurance Information, Counseling, and Assistance Program

Niagara County Office for the Aging • 111 Main Street • Lockport, NY 14094
www.niagaracounty.com/aging 716-438-3030

Medicare Reminders, Updates and Changes for 2022

2022 Estimated Part A and B costs:

Part A deductible: increase from \$1,484 to \$1,556. Standard Part B premium may increase from \$148.50 to \$157.50 per month. The Part B annual deductible, up from \$203 to \$217. Part A deductible: increase from \$1,484 to \$1,556

New: Beneficiaries with ESRD can enroll in MAPD's.

All beneficiaries with ESRD can enroll in a MAPD. Caution: MA plans may have up to a 20% cost sharing for dialysis (up to the plan's max annual out of pocket limit or MOOP).

Medicare Advantage Plan Open Enrollment Period (OEP)

January 1 through March 31. Allows Medicare Advantage Plan (MAP) change: Change from one MA plan to MA plan OR to Original Medicare, with or without Part D. CANNOT change from Original Medicare to MA plan. CANNOT change Stand Alone Pt D plan. One change, effective first of the following month.

NEW to Medicare Beneficiary OEP:

For NEW beneficiaries who enrolled in an MA plan during their Initial Coverage Election Period (ICEP): The MA OEP starts the month of entitlement to Parts A and B of Medicare and ends the last day of the 3rd month of entitlement. Example: Beneficiary **turns 65** in mid-April, and enrolls in Pt. A and B and a Medicare Advantage (MA) plan to be effective April 1. This beneficiary would have the **MA OEP** from April-June.

Special Enrollment Periods (SEP):

SEP for Low Income Subsidy (LIS)- Extra Help Eligible Individuals

Limitation on LIS Extra Help SEP, limited to 1 change per quarter during first 9 months of year.

SEP65: Beneficiaries who enrolled in an MA Plan during their Initial Coverage Election Period (ICEP) surrounding their 65th birthday have 12 months from the effective date to return to Original Medicare. Can enroll in a stand-alone Part D Plan at the same time.

Changes to the PLAN FINDER tool at medicare.gov: Important information can now be found by clicking on "view more drug coverage". This includes drug payment stages by chosen pharmacy, drug tier, drug list and coverage rules. Plan contact information is now at the top of the page. Additionally, there is a chart that organizes drug costs by pharmacy, an estimate of total monthly cost and total annual cost. Star ratings can be found at the end of the plan details page.

(Over)

Medicare Reminders, Updates and Changes for 2022

4 signs you need to shop for a different Pt. D or MAPD

1. Your plan's formulary will change. Switching may save you money.
2. Your meds changed. Switching may save you money.
3. Your local pharmacies may not be in network. Switching may save you money.
4. If you pay a high monthly premium for your Pt. D plan but don't use it, switching may save you money.

FYI: In 2022 some MAPD's are offering a "Give Back". CMS refers to this as a reduction in the PT. B Premium under Medicare Advantage Rules, as described in 42CF.R section 408.21 It is described as a give back. It is a reduction in the Pt. B monthly premium paid. Not money that is given out. It is not income and won't affect eligibility for benefit and entitlement programs such as Low Income Subsidy (LIS) Extra Help.

Call HIICAP if you have any questions about health insurance or cost assistance programs at 716-438-3030. HIICAP counselors provide unbiased confidential counseling, information and assistance.