

Medicare Coverage Enrollment Changes for 2020



Although the Annual Medicare Open Enrollment Period is now officially over, some Medicare beneficiaries are still able to change their health and prescription coverage.

Medicare beneficiaries who are members of EPIC, New York State's prescription drug benefit, are eligible for one Special Enrollment Period annually. They can use this at any time to change their Medicare Part D coverage, whether it be a stand-alone plan or a Medicare Advantage plan.

Medicare beneficiaries who have Medicaid or the Medicare Savings Program or Extra Help Low Income Subsidy through the Social Security Administration are able to change their Medicare plan one time during each of the first three quarters of the year (January – March; April – June; July – September) to be effective the first of the following month.

The new Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period is from January 1 through March 31. During this period a person on a Medicare Advantage plan has one opportunity to change from the Medicare Advantage plan to a different Medicare Advantage plan or can go back to Original Medicare by enrolling into a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

For further information or for free, unbiased information and assistance, Onondaga County residents can call Onondaga County Office for Aging HIICAP (Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program) at 315-435-2362. Residents of other counties can call their local Office for Aging.