

Medicare Open Enrollment for 2019

(October 15, 2018 through December 7, 2018)

Medicare in Wyoming 2019

Medicare Open Enrollment runs from October 15, 2018, to December 7, 2018. People with Medicare should take the opportunity to review their healthcare needs for the upcoming year and determine if changes to their current coverage are necessary. Plan costs change each year, so everyone with a Medicare health or drug plan should check to make sure their plan still meets their health needs and budget. By shopping available plans and comparing costs, beneficiaries may be able to find a Medicare health or drug plan (Part D) with better coverage or a lower premium in 2019.

September 2018

- The “2019 Medicare & You” Handbooks are mailed to Medicare beneficiaries. The handbook can be accessed online at: <https://www.medicare.gov/forms-help-resources/medicare-you-handbook/download-medicare-you-in-different-formats>.
- Health and drug plans begin notifying enrollees about changes to their plans in 2019.

October 2018

- Beneficiaries can begin shopping and comparing plans on Medicare.gov starting October 1, 2018.
- Beneficiaries should watch their mail for notices from Medicare with information about changes in 2019.
- Medicare health and drug plan 2019 Star Ratings will be available on Medicare.gov on or around October 10, 2018.
- Medicare Open Enrollment **begins October 15, 2018**.

December 2018

- Medicare Open Enrollment **ends December 7, 2018**.

January 2019

- Medicare plan coverage for 2019 **begins January 1, 2019**.

New Medicare Cards are Coming

Medicare began mailing new cards to Wyoming residents around September 17th, 2018.

- To help prevent identity theft, new cards won't include Social Security numbers. Instead, each person will get a new unique Medicare Number.
- You don't need to do anything to get a new card, but you should make sure your mailing address is up to date. Visit ssa.gov/myaccount or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778) to correct your mailing address, if updates are needed.
- Medicare will never call and ask for personal information before sending new cards, so don't share your Medicare Number or other personal information if someone calls and asks for it.
- Medicare will mail more information with the new cards – check Medicare.gov for the latest updates.

For further assistance, please contact the Wyoming State Health Insurance Information Program (WSHIIP) at 1-800-856-4398, or the Wyoming Insurance Department at 1-800-438-5768. The Wyoming State Health Insurance Information Program (WSHIIP) is a federally grant funded program overseen by the Wyoming Department of Insurance designed to assist Medicare beneficiaries across Wyoming to enroll in and understand Medicare benefits, determine eligibility and assist in applying for low- income assistance programs. In addition, WSHIIP can aid in filing Medicare appeals, all at no cost to Wyoming consumers.

Be a smart consumer. Billions of federal dollars are lost annually due to health care fraud, error and abuse. Below are tips to help you avoid fraud:

- Review Medicare statements as soon as they arrive to ensure all of the services listed were actually received.
- Keep a record of medical visits, tests, receipts for services, and equipment received.
- Be very wary of anybody calling with “offers” or responding to postcard mailers.
- Don’t give your Medicare number to anyone.
- If you suspect Medicare errors, fraud, or abuse, please contact the Senior Medicare Patrol Wyoming hotline at 1-800-856-4398.
- If something sounds “too good to be true,” it probably is.
- Medicare Savings Programs - If your income is low, you may qualify for various government programs which will fill in the gaps in your Medicare coverage. Contact Wyoming Medicaid at 1-855-294-2127 or WSHIIP to find out if you qualify.