

Winter Newsletter 2018



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Independent Agent

Medicare Supplements
Medicare Advantage Plans
Life Insurance & Final Expense
Health Insurance
Dental, Cancer, Critical Illness
Long-Term & Short Term Care
Annuities



News You Can Use! News you can Share!

Happy New Year Everyone! Christmas has come and gone! Christmas decorations are coming down and Saint Nick is safely back at the North Pole. Now it's time to make those New Year's Resolutions! My suggestion: Attend one of Roger's Meetings!

To help you better understand your Medicare Advantage plan, I will hold meetings to review the benefits for 2018. Please see page 3 for details.

Thank you again for allowing me to help you with your insurance needs. I wish you a happy and blessed New Year and all through 2018!

Open Enrollment Ends

For Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug plans, October 15 thru December 7 was the Annual Election Period (AEP). This is the only time each year that you can change, unless you have Extra Help (Low Income Subsidy), Full or Partial Medicaid, or another Special Election.



307 W Meadow Rd, Suite A

For individuals under 65, the Open Enrollment for the Affordable Care Act (ACA, aka Obama care), was November 1 thru December 15. Unless you have a special circumstance (like losing your job and/or insurance, marriage, divorce, new baby), current law prevents you from enrolling in an ACA Plan. But there are some other options like Short Term plans and Med-Share type plans.

Call me for more information.

“Welcome to Medicare” Educational Meetings

Know someone who will soon be turning 65 or becoming eligible for Medicare? Please tell them about the meetings I will be hosting on the ABC's of Medicare. I explain the differences between Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Supplements, and Prescription Drug Plans. There is no charge for these meetings, but reservations are requested! Meetings will resume in February, 2018.

Your Social Security Benefit is Increasing!

Good News!! The Social Security Administration announced that monthly benefits will increase by 2% in 2018. For a benefit of \$1000 per month, that would be a \$20 increase.

Now Bad News: Your Medicare Part B premium will also increase. But Good News, sort of: Your Part B premium cannot increase more than your Social Security increase. For most people, the premium is \$134 in 2018, but for some, it could be less.

Social Security is in process of mailing out your Annual Benefit Statement, as well as letters stating the deposit amount for your January benefit.

Did You Change Your Medicare Plan for 2018?

If you changed your Medicare Advantage or Prescription Drug plan for 2018, here are a few points to keep in mind, especially if you changed in late November or December.

If you chose for your premium to be deducted from your Social Security Deposit, it can take 60 to 90 days for this to take place. Therefore, you may get a bill or coupon book from the company to make the January premium payment. Social Security will also send you a letter stating when they will begin deducting the premium from your check.

If Social Security deducted the premium for your old plan from your January check, they will redeposit it to your account once they update your new premium information. Also, it takes time to drop your name from the previous company's mailing list. So you may even receive a new ID card and other materials that were already scheduled to mail.

Company Announcements & Updates!



Eden's Morehead Hospital Acquired by UNC Healthcare

UNC Health Care was selected by Judge Benjamin A. Kahn as the winning bidder for Morehead Memorial Hospital at a Nov. 13 hearing in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of N.C.

It sets the course for the 108-bed hospital to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy in early 2018 and continue providing healthcare to the residents of Eden and the surrounding area.

Medicare Changes for 2018

The Medicare Part B premium for existing Beneficiaries will increase in 2018, but it cannot increase more than your Social Security Benefit increase of 2% for 2018.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

NC SHIP:
1-800-443-9354

Medicare:
1-800-Medicare (800-633-4227)

Social Security Admin
(Reidsville): 1-866-748-2091

Social Security Admin
(National): 1-800-772-1213

Do Not Call Registry:
1-888-382-1222

For individuals newly eligible in 2017 or 2018, the Part B Premium is \$134, although some individuals may pay a higher premium based on their income.

The Medicare Part A Hospital Deductible is now \$1,340 per Benefit Period. The Part B Annual Deductible remains at \$183.

For individuals with a High Deductible Plan F Medicare Supplement, the deductible will be \$2,240.

The Out-of-Pocket Maximums for Plan K is \$5,240. Plan K covers 50% of the Part A & B Deductibles and the 20% Coinsurance.

The Out-of-Pocket Maximums for Plan L is \$2,620. Plan K covers 75% of the Deductibles and Coinsurance, so your share is only 25%.

Aetna News: CVS to Acquire Aetna

CVS Health, and Aetna, one of the nation's leading diversified health care benefits companies, announced the execution of a definitive merger agreement under which CVS Health will acquire all outstanding shares of Aetna for a combination of cash and stock.

CVS is the 7th largest US Corporation, and Aetna, the 3rd largest Health Insurance Company with over 22 million members, is the 43rd largest company. The transaction is expected to close in the 2nd half of 2018. This will have no effect on Aetna Plans for 2018.

Member Review Meetings

To help you better understand your 2018 Plan, I will be holding Member Review Meetings.

These meetings are for new and current members. They are intended to review the Plan's Key Benefits and are not compliant Sales Presentations. The meetings are at the EconoLodge in Eden on East Arbor Lane near Walmart and behind Ruby Tuesday.

If you are not able to attend, please call me and we can discuss a personal appointment.

Aetna: Wed, January 10 at 10:00; Thur, January 11 at 1:00

Blue Cross: Tues, January 9 at 1:00

Health Team Advantage:

Tues January 9 at 10:00; Wed, January 10 at 3:00.

Humana: Wed, January 10 at 1:00; Thur, January 11 at 10:00

United Healthcare/AARP:

Tues, January 9 at 3:00; Thur, January 11 at 3:00

****Inclement Weather Dates: January 16, 17, 18****



BENEFITS FOR VETERANS:

**Health Care Benefits:
877-222-8387**

**Disability, Pension, Burial:
800-827-1000**

Life Insurance: 800-419-1473

**Veterans Crisis Line:
800-273-8255**

Aid & Attendance: 800-827-1000

**Women Veterans Hotline:
855-829-6636**

**Vocational Rehab & Counsel:
800-827-1000**



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2018

wishing you & yours

A Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Roger Ward Insurance, LLC
