



307 W. Meadow Rd, Suite A
Eden, NC 27288-3266

FALL 2024 Newsletter



REMINDERS!

Medicare Annual Enrollment: Oct. 15 – Dec. 7

NC State Employees/Retirees: Sept. 30 – Oct. 25

Marketplace (ACA, aka Obamacare): Nov. 1 – Jan. 15

Individuals turning 65 can enroll in a Medicare plan
as early as 3 months before their Medicare starts.

Tell your family and friends turning 65 to give me a call
so I can help them, too. I really appreciate your referrals!



Fall 2024 Newsletter



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Medicare Supplements
Medicare Advantage Plans
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News You Can Use! News You Can Share!

Greetings! Fall is here! And that means the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period is also right around the corner, October 15 thru December 7.

2025 will be another unique year! As a result of the Biden-Harris Administration's *Inflation Reduction Act*, Part D Drug Plan benefits must limit the Member's Annual Out of Pocket cost share to \$2000 per year. In addition, there will no longer be a Donut Hole! And Medicare's new Prescription



307 W. Meadow Rd
Suite A, in Eden, NC

Payment Plan will begin for 2025. More on this later.

I will again be holding group meetings this Fall to review the changes to your plan for 2025 (see enclosed schedule). I will also be happy to schedule a telephone appointment, or a meeting in my Eden or Madison office. In some cases, I will make home appointments for clients with mobility issues.

I want to thank you again for allowing me to help you with your insurance needs. As always, if you ever have any questions, please call me at 336-627-3099.

I wish everyone a safe Fall and Holiday season!

19 Years!

It's hard to believe, but 19 years ago, September 2005, I began my career in the Medicare Market, joining Humana and assigned to the Eden Walmart. I left Humana in 2012, and formed Roger Ward Insurance, LLC, so I could represent all the major plans my clients could choose from. It was the best business decision I ever made! I have thoroughly enjoyed helping Seniors navigate through all their Medicare options to select the best plan for their needs! With your continued business and referrals, I'm looking forward to YEAR 20!



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES YOU NEED TO KNOW

ACA Plans (aka Obamacare)

The Affordable Care Act is still the Law of the Land. **Open Enrollment** is November 1 thru January 15. But to get a January 1 Effective Date, you must apply by December 15. Applications submitted December 16 thru January 15 will receive a February 1 Effective Date. After January 15, a Qualifying Life Event is required to be eligible for a Special Enrollment option.

Remember with Obamacare, your monthly premium is based on the subsidy you receive, which is based on your estimated annual income you provide. And when you file your taxes, the IRS compares your actual income to your estimated income, and you either receive additional subsidy, or you may have to pay some, or all of it back!

Medicare Plans are Changing!

If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C), or stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan (Part D), you should have received the **Annual Notice of Changes** from your current Insurance Company in September. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you should see some benefits for 2025 increasing, but some will decrease or remain unchanged.

In the Biden-Harris Administration's *Inflation Reduction Act*, Part D Drug Plan benefits must limit the Member's Annual Out of Pocket cost share to \$2000 per year. As a result of the increased cost on Insurance Companies to implement this, many Part D Stand-Alone Plans will have higher premiums and drug deductibles, up to \$590 on some plans. And some Medicare Advantage Plans will also be adding some Drug Deductibles, as well as higher Copays and fewer "extras".

No More Donut Hole!

The Part D Prescription Drug benefits for 2025 will no longer have the Donut Hole, aka the Coverage Gap. And as previously mentioned, the maximum out of pocket for prescription drugs will be \$2000.

New Prescription Payment Plan

If you use low cost, generic drugs, you probably won't need this. But if you have some expensive medications and your Plan has a large deductible, then you might want to consider the new Prescription Payment Plan. This will spread the cost of your drugs over the year thereby avoiding a big payout in one or two months.

Your insurance company will determine your monthly payment and send you a bill. Then, there will be no charge when you pick up your prescriptions. You can enroll or disenroll at any time by contacting your insurance company.

Medicare Meetings in Rockingham County

I will again be holding meetings to go over the 2025 changes to your plans. You should have received the Annual Notice of Changes from your current Medicare Advantage Plan in September. Since these can often be difficult to read, I will hold the following meetings.

The following meetings are for current Members. Please RSVP if you want to attend by calling 336-627-3099.

Oh, Sugar! – 125 N Van Buren Road, Eden, NC (across from Flea Market)

Aetna: October: 8th at 10:00, 9th at 3:00, 11th at 3:00, 29th at 3:00

Blue Cross Blue Shield: October: 8th at 1:00, 10th at 10:00, 30th at 1:00

HealthTeam Advantage: October: 7th at 1:00, 10th at 3:00, 11th at 10:00, 29th at 10:00

Humana: October: 8th at 3:00, 10th at 1:00, 30th at 3:00

UnitedHealthcare: October 7th at 3:00, 9th at 1:00, 11th at 1:00, 29th at 1:00

Western Rockingham Chamber of Commerce – 112 W. Murphy St, Madison, NC

Aetna: October 15th at 1:00

Blue Cross Blue Shield: October 15th at 10:00

HealthTeam Advantage: October 14th at 1:00

Humana: October 15th at 3:00

UnitedHealthcare: October 14th at 3:00

State Employees & Retirees

Open Enrollment for State Employees & Retirees is September 30 thru October 25.

If you are currently enrolled in a Humana Group Medicare Advantage Plan, it will renew automatically.

If you are currently enrolled in the Medicare **Base Blue Cross PPO 73-30 Plan, you will be moved** to the Humana Group Medicare Advantage Plan unless you call and request to keep the 70/30. Also note the 70/30 Plan will be administered by Aetna in 2025.

If you are not yet on Medicare, refer to the Decision Guide you receive from the State.

If you want to change your Plan, you will need to contact the State between September 30 and October 25. Call the Enrollment Support Center at 855-859-0966, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 10:00 pm, and Saturday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

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

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

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

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

NC SHIP:
1-800-443-9354

**Rockingham County Social
Services:** 336-342-7013