



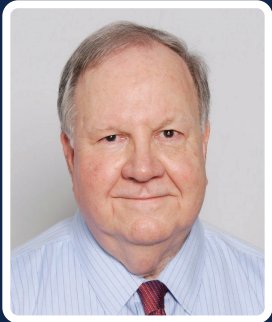
307 West Meadow Road
Suite A
Eden, NC 27288

WINTER 2025
Newsletter

WISHING YOU THE BEST IN 2025!

January							February							March							April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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September							October							November							December						
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Winter Newsletter 2025



ROGER WARD, CSA

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rward@rogerwardinsurance.com
RogerWardInsurance.com

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!!

The Medicare Annual Enrollment Period ended December 7, 2024. There are now over 50 plans available in 2025 in Rockingham County! Guilford and other counties have even more!

We had over 500 phone calls from October through December.

We appreciate the opportunity to answer your questions and help you with your healthcare decisions.

The big news for 2025 is Medicare ending the “Donut Hole” in Part D drug plans and limiting an individual’s out-of-pocket cost on drugs to \$2,000. While these are very positive changes, it did result in the insurance companies raising copays, premiums, deductibles, and reducing some benefits to offset the higher costs.

All these changes and others were listed in the **Annual Notice of Change** document your plan mailed to you back in September. If you didn’t receive one, call your plan’s customer service and request one. It listed all the changes to your plan for 2025.

I want to thank you again for allowing us to help you with your insurance needs. As always, if you ever have a question, please don’t hesitate to call us at 336-627-3099.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year in 2025!

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS INCREASE FOR 2025

The Social Security Administration announced the annual Cost Of Living Adjustment for 2025 to be 2.5%. Individuals with a \$1,000 monthly benefit will receive a \$25 monthly increase. Individuals with a \$1,500 benefit will receive a \$37.50 monthly increase. A \$2,000 benefit will increase by \$50 per month.

You should receive a letter from Social Security showing your new 2025 monthly benefit amount and when it will be deposited to your bank account.

For individuals on Medicare, the standard Part B premium will increase from \$174.70 to \$185 per month.



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



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES YOU NEED TO KNOW

DID YOU REVIEW YOUR MEDICARE PLAN FOR 2025?

If you didn't review your 2025 Annual Notice of Change document from your insurance company during the Annual Enrollment Period, which ended December 7, 2024, you may be in for a big surprise the next time you pick up your prescriptions. Furthermore, you may discover that your monthly premium is also higher!

The big news for Medicare in 2025 is that there is no longer a "Donut Hole," or Coverage Gap as it is also called. When someone reached the Donut Hole, their drug copay would jump from \$45 to 25% of the cost of the drug and could be \$150 or higher! Another Medicare requirement in 2025 is that the Part D drug Plans also limit each person's out of pocket costs to \$2,000.

While these are great benefits, the insurance companies have raised premiums, deductibles, and copays to offset their higher costs. The standard drug deductible for 2025 is \$590. So, if you take an expensive brand name medication, the first time you refill prescriptions in 2025 may cost you over \$600!

Some companies also changed the Member's cost for Tier 3 brand drugs, like the ones you see on TV, from a copay to coinsurance. Since drugs like those can cost \$800 to \$1000 or more, that \$45 copay in 2024 could be \$150 to \$200 or more in 2025!

What are my options? Can I change plans?

Some people will be able to change plans, while others may not. However, everyone is able to participate in the new Medicare Prescription Payment Plan (also known as "M3P"). This new option for 2025 is similar to an equal payment plan with the power or gas company. It will spread your higher costs in the early months over the remaining months of the year. And you can opt-in or opt-out any time during the year. Call your insurance company and they will explain how this works.

You may also be able to change to a better plan under certain circumstances. This can also depend on what county and state you reside in. Below are some possible options.

- If you have diabetes or heart failure, you may be able to change to a Critical Illness Special Needs Medicare Advantage Plan. Several companies offer these in the Triad. You can enroll at any time throughout the year.
- If your county has a 5-Star Medicare Advantage Plan, you can enroll one time during the year.
- If you currently have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you make one change during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period, which begins January 1, 2025, and ends March 31, 2025.
- There are also other Special Election Periods like losing employer coverage or moving outside the plan's service area.

If you have any questions about these or want more information, please give us a call at 336-627-3099.

WILL YOU CONSIDER SHARING US ONLINE?

1. Write us your review on [Google](https://www.google.com/search?q=rogerwardinsurance.com/google) [rogerwardinsurance.com/google](https://www.google.com/search?q=rogerwardinsurance.com/google)
2. Follow us on [f](https://www.facebook.com/rogerwardinsurance.com/facebook) [rogerwardinsurance.com/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rogerwardinsurance.com/facebook)



ACA PLANS (AKA OBAMACARE)

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) **Open Enrollment Period** for a January 1, 2025, effective date ended December 15, 2024. However, the final deadline for a February 1, 2025, effective date is January 15, 2025.

After January 15, a qualifying life event is required to get a special enrollment option. Examples are: losing employer/group coverage, marriage, divorce, new baby, moving, etc.

Due to the expansion of Medicaid in North Carolina in 2024, annual income required to receive a tax credit subsidy for an individual increased to \$20,783. For a household of two, it increased to \$28,207.

Individuals below the new threshold will not qualify for an ACA subsidy, but can apply for Medicaid through their county's Department of Social Services.

MEDICARE PREMIUMS & DEDUCTIBLES

The Medicare Part B standard monthly premium is increasing by \$10.30 from \$174.70 to \$185 in 2025.

The Medicare Part A hospital deductible is increasing from \$1,632 to \$1,676 in 2025. The Part B annual deductible is increasing from \$240 to \$257. The Part B coinsurance is still 20%.

The copay for a skilled nursing facility, which begins on day 21 through day 100, is increasing from \$204 to \$209.50 Per day. The first 20 days are covered 100% in many cases.

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLANS

Individuals with a Medicare Supplement or "Medigap" Plan, except Plans C and F, will be responsible for the first \$257 in 2025. After meeting this Part B deductible, the insurance company will then pay the 20% coinsurance that Medicare does not pay.

Individuals with high deductible plans F, G, or J will be responsible for the first \$2,870 in 2025, after which the plan will cover all Medicare-covered costs. The Part A deductible is \$1,676, and the Part B deductible is \$257.

Individuals with Plans K and L will have new annual maximum out-of-pocket (MOOP) limits for 2025. For Plan K, which has 50-50% coinsurance, the MOOP will be \$7,220. Plan L, which has 75-25% coinsurance, the MOOP will be \$3,610. These plans offer substantially lower monthly premiums than Plans F or G.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

NC SHIP:
1-800-443-9354

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

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

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

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

Rockingham County Social
Services: 336-342-7013