

Minnesota

Medicare Update

Medicare Open Enrollment Begins Today!

Medicare Open Enrollment began today and runs through December 7. Every year there are plan changes that can include out-of-pocket costs, covered drugs and participating providers. The Senior LinkAge Line encourages every Medicare beneficiary to review their plan options by using the [Medicare Plan Finder](#) on [Medicare.gov](#). This will help to ensure that you have the coverage that is best for you for 2021.

If you don't have access to a computer or have someone to help you use the updated Medicare Plan Finder, or if you simply have questions and can't find the answers, call the Senior LinkAge Line at 800-333-2433. Before making the call, have the following items nearby:

1. Medicare card/Medicare Advantage Plan card/Medicare Part D card
2. List of prescription drugs with dosage amounts
3. Name and address of your preferred pharmacy
4. List of your health care providers
5. Your username and password, if you have created an account on [Medicare.gov](#)
6. If you are on Medical Assistance (MA), include your MA card or health plan card.
7. All of the information you received in the mail from your current plan

Remember, during Medicare Open Enrollment you have a number of decisions that you can make for your health care coverage in 2021. You can:

- Stay with your current plan
- Enroll in a new Medicare Advantage Plan
- Enroll in a new stand-alone Part D plan
- Enroll in a Cost Plan if you live in one of the 21 counties where these plans are available

Minnesota's 2021 Medicare Care Guide Will Go Live Today

The state's annually produced, comprehensive Minnesota Medicare guide, *Health Care Choices for Minnesotans on Medicare* will be posted online today. It contains helpful information about all the Medicare options available in Minnesota for 2021. Use it as a resource to help you make informed decisions about your Medicare enrollment. Visit <http://mnhealthcarechoices.org/>.

Plans No Longer Available

The following plans will not be available in Minnesota in 2021. If you are enrolled in any of these plans, will need to make a change before the end of the year.

- Journey Rx Stand-Alone Prescription Drug Plans (2 plans)
 - Mutual of Omaha Rx Value Stand-Alone Prescription Drug Plan
 - BCBS Strive Medicare Advantage Plans (001 and 002)
 - UCare Total Medicare Advantage Plans (025-01, 025-2, 025-3)
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Part D Senior Savings Model

Many of the Medicare plans for 2021 are participating in a new federal program to reduce out-of-pocket insulin costs. A 30-day supply of insulin will not cost more than \$35. Insulin savings are just a click away on the [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) Plan Finder. To find plans that offer the program, select *Filter* at the top right corner of the plan information. Choose *Insulin Savings* and then *Apply Filters*. The plans that participate in the federal program will be listed.

Help Is Available to Pay Medicare Costs

Many people with Medicare have difficulty paying their Medicare-related costs, but most do not know that there are free programs available to help. For those who qualify, Medicare Part D Extra Help can help cover prescription drug costs. Medicare Savings Programs helps pay for Medicare premiums. Each program has income and asset guidelines. Call the Senior LinkAge Line at 800-333-2433 for more information.

Reminder - No In-person Assistance during Medicare Open Enrollment

Due to the pandemic, the Senior LinkAge Line will be unable to provide in-person assistance during Medicare Open Enrollment. We made this decision in order to keep both beneficiaries and staff safe. We can help you by phone at 800-333-2433. Thank you for your understanding.

The [Senior LinkAge Line](#)® is the federally designated State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for Minnesota. If you have Questions about Medicare, call the Senior LinkAge Line at 800-333-2433 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

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