



Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Over 65 Years Old? It's Open Enrollment Season for Medicare.

Eligible individuals have until Dec.7 to enroll or make changes to Medicare plans.

KNOX CITY, Texas (Nov. 5, 2021) – It is open enrollment season for Medicare, but the window to register for these essential health plans is limited. If you or someone you love is 65 years of age or older, knowing how to register for Medicare plans is essential.

Medicare is a longstanding and well-beloved healthcare plan that is used by millions of Americans. Although there has been a lot of advertising for the insurance product known as Medicare Advantage, Knox County Hospital District encourages local residents to consider the benefits of Original Medicare.

“Being accessible for area residents is critical. That is why Knox County Hospital District is proud to offer healthcare programs and services for patients on Original Medicare,” says Stephen Kuehler, CEO of Knox County Hospital District. “Many seniors in our community rely on the benefits of Medicare for their hospital, medical, long-term care, and prescription drug coverages; we want to make sure we can help provide these services.”

The Original Medicare program began in 1965 when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a bill that led to the formation of both the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Over the years, Congress has made many changes to the Medicare program that expanded coverage and made more people eligible for benefits.

Today, there are four essential parts of Medicare: Part A, Part B, Part C, and Part D.

Medicare Part A provides hospital insurance, covering in-patient care in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, hospice care, and home health care.

Medicare Part B provides medical insurance for services from doctors and medical providers, out-patient care, durable medical equipment, and many preventative health services (screenings, vaccinations, and wellness visits).

MORE



Over 65 Years Old? It's Open Enrollment Season for Medicare.

Page 2

Medicare Part C is also known as Medicare Advantage, a Medicare-approved plan from a private company that offers an alternative to original Medicare for health and drug coverage. It essentially bundles Parts A, B, and D. In most cases, Medicare Advantage requires you to use doctors in the plan's network. Additionally, plans may have lower out-of-pocket costs than Original Medicare (Parts A and B) and may include extra benefits such as vision, hearing, and dental services.

Medicare Part D provides drug coverage, covering part of the cost of prescription drugs and many recommended vaccinations.

Regardless of the plans you choose, ensuring health insurance coverage is essential. Open enrollment for Medicare began on Oct. 15. Qualifying individuals have the opportunity to enroll or make changes to their existing plans during this limited-time window, which ends on Dec. 7.

For more information regarding Medicare and to learn about your choice of healthcare for individuals ages 65 and older, please visit www.choosingmedicare.org. Additionally, Knox County Hospital District CEO, Stephen Kuehler, is available to answer any questions. Kuehler may be reached by calling 940-657-3535.

To learn more about local healthcare programs and services in Knox County, visit www.knoxfhospital.org.

About Knox County Hospital District

Founded in 1926, Knox County Hospital District provides healthcare for residents of Knox County and surrounding areas. The district offers many medical services, including 24-hour emergency care, advanced radiology services, a clinical laboratory, home health, physical therapy, long-term care, patient education, and more. For additional information, please call 940-657-3535 or visit www.knoxfhospital.org.

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