

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

700 West State Street, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0043
Phone (208)334-4250
FAX # (208)334-4398
Website: <http://www.doi.idaho.gov>

WILLIAM W. DEAL
Director

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Tricia Carney
208-334-4312
tricia.carney@doi.idaho.gov
Cell 208-850-2342

Medicare annual enrollment in full swing
Contact Idaho SHIBA for help

BOISE ID (October 27, 2014) – Medicare annual enrollment began October 15 and continues through December 7. Medicare beneficiaries can change, drop or enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan or Part D prescription drug coverage plan. While the annual enrollment period applies to these plans, it does not apply to Medigap. The Idaho Department of Insurance encourages consumers to review available plans through *Medicare Plan Finder*, www.Medicare.gov.

The Department's office of Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) is available to help consumers understand their options. SHIBA is a federally-funded program that offers free, unbiased counseling – advisors do not sell insurance nor recommend coverage.

“Assistance for Medicare annual enrollment is available from a variety of sources including Idaho licensed insurance producers,” says Department Director Bill Deal. “As plans change and individual needs change, the annual review process can help ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have the coverage that is right for them.”

Medicare beneficiaries are encouraged to begin researching their options early and seek counseling if needed to make sure they are getting the best coverage for the coming plan year.

Talk to a SHIBA counselor or schedule an in-person appointment by calling toll free 800-247-4422. SHIBA offices are located in Boise, Coeur d'Alene and Pocatello; with counseling sites available in smaller communities throughout the state.

About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.

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