

*State of Idaho*  
**DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE**

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**Idaho Department of Insurance News Release**

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## **Medicare Annual Open Enrollment to begin October 15**

**BOISE ID** – The Idaho Department of Insurance reminds Medicare beneficiaries that the annual enrollment period will begin October 15 and continue through December 7. During this time, Medicare beneficiaries can change, drop or enroll in a prescription drug coverage plan or a Medicare Advantage plan. Annual enrollment does not apply to Medigap.

Reviewing a Medicare plan annually helps consumers ensure they have coverage that meets current needs including current prescription drug coverage and health coverage that works with preferred medical providers.

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. Only an Idaho licensed agent can recommend coverage or sell insurance.

"Medicare can be confusing, and Idaho consumers have options to help them find plans that are best for their particular circumstances," says Department Director Dean Cameron. "I strongly encourage consumers to seek assistance from a licensed agent or counseling from our SHIBA program."

To make an appointment with a SHIBA counselor, consumers are encouraged to call toll free 800-247-4422. SHIBA has counselors in communities throughout Idaho.

### **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](http://www.doi.idaho.gov).

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