

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

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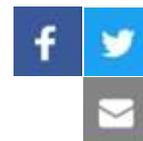
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**Idaho Department of Insurance News Release**

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**Temporary Rule Change Provides Medicare Enrollees More Time to Buy Coverage**  
***Additional three-month period will run Oct. 1, 2018 to Jan. 1, 2019***

BOISE, ID – Idahoans under the age of 65 who qualified and enrolled for benefits under Medicare parts A and B will now have an additional three-month window to purchase a Medicare supplement plan, thanks in part to a temporary rule change approved by the Idaho Department of Insurance. The effective date of the temporary rule is October 1, 2018, and will expire on January 1, 2019.

In accordance with IDAPA Rule 18.01.54, the Department will require carriers to accept Medicare Supplement applications for those pre-65 eligible individuals from October 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, with application effective dates of October 1, 2018 through February 1, 2019. This special enrollment is in addition to the traditional open enrollment period for Medicare beneficiaries which begins October 15 of this year.

Following a 2016 rule change that allowed beneficiaries under the age of 65 to buy a Medicare supplement policy within six months of qualifying for coverage effective January 1, 2018, the state found that some beneficiaries were unaware of this open enrollment period that expired June 30, 2018. The previous period did not align with the part D prescription open enrollment. Prior to this, consumers were forced to choose between their existing plan and a Medicare supplement without prescription coverage.

“This temporary rule gives pre-65 consumers a second chance to enroll in a Medicare supplement which closely aligns with the ability to purchase a standalone Medicare part D plan,” said Director Dean Cameron.

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to serve and protect Idahoans by equitably, effectively and efficiently administering the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit [doi.idaho.gov](http://doi.idaho.gov).

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