

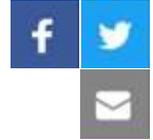
State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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: <https://doi.idaho.gov>

DEAN L. CAMERON
Director

Idaho Department of Insurance News Release
For Immediate Release: October 11, 2018
Contact: Steve Lombard, 208-334-4312
steve.lombard@doi.idaho.gov



Medicare Open Enrollment Begins October 15, Ends December 7 *Consumers encouraged to review plans annually to secure proper coverage*

BOISE ID – People with Medicare looking to make changes to existing Prescription Drug or Medicare Advantage plans, or those seeking to enroll in new plans in Idaho can do so during the annual Medicare Open Enrollment period, October 15 through December 7.

In addition to the traditional Open Enrollment period, Idahoans under the age of 65 who qualified and enrolled for benefits under Medicare parts A and B also have a three-month window to purchase a Medicare supplement plan, thanks in part to a temporary rule change approved by the Department. The extra three-month period began October 1, 2018, and expires on Jan. 1, 2019.

Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) from the Idaho Department of Insurance are available statewide to meet one-on-one or speak by phone with current Medicare beneficiaries, or those eligible to join the federal health care program. SHIBA representatives can provide free Medicare information, counseling and assistance, including selecting or revising Medicare coverage options. Click [Medicare Open Enrollment](#) to view a calendar of events being offered statewide where Medicare counselors will be available to provide free assistance during the Open Enrollment period.

Representatives stress the importance of enrollees annually reviewing their Medicare coverage. This can help consumers ensure they have a plan that covers prescription drugs at the lowest cost, and a plan that works with preferred medical providers.

"Medicare can be confusing, but Idaho consumers do have options for plans that best fit their medical needs," said Director Dean Cameron. "I strongly encourage consumers to seek guidance from our SHIBA representatives or a licensed agent."

Call toll free 800-247-4422 to make an appointment or to speak with a SHIBA counselor.

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.

###