**Medicare Outreach Idea of the Month**

**Begin Your Outreach for Medicare’s Annual OEP!**

**August 2021**

While we continue to enjoy the beautiful Wisconsin summer, fall is just around the corner—and Medicare’s annual open enrollment period will soon be here. The assistance you are able to provide may be different than last year. Maybe there are still restrictions in the way you conduct business, or maybe you’re already back to “business as usual”. Whatever the case may be, you’ll want to let consumers know about this important time and the service you provide.

All of you certainly understand the importance of reviewing a Part D plan each year, but many people with Medicare do not. Spread the word about the annual open enrollment period with the article below. Include it in your agency newsletter and link to it from your Facebook page or other social media.

It’s also important to make sure people in your community know where to get help with *all* their Medicare-related questions. Consider including these [Important Resources for Medicare and Related Programs](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005934) in your outreach materials.

**To view all the GWAAR Medicare Outreach and Assistance Resources, follow the link to our webpage:**

<https://gwaar.org/medicare-outreach-and-assistance-resources>

By the GWAAR Medicare Outreach Team

**Get Ready for the Medicare**

**Annual Open Enrollment Period**

The Medicare annual open enrollment period is just around the corner and now is a good time to start thinking about your options. Do you have a Medicare Prescription Drug (Part D) plan? Each year these plans can change the list of prescription medications they will cover. The plans’ premiums, deductibles, and co-pays can also change each year. That means even if you are taking the same medications, the amount you pay for your medications may change in 2022!

What can people do about this? Anyone with a Medicare Part D Plan should check their coverage each year during Medicare’s annual open enrollment period which runs **October 15 through December 7th**. This is the time of year to find out if your current plan will cost you more, or less than other Part D plans in 2022. If it is no longer the best plan for your medications, this is the time to make a switch to a Part D plan that will suit you better.

Make sure you will have appropriate prescription drug coverage in the new year. You can compare plans on the official Medicare website at Medicare.gov. Medicare beneficiaries in <XYZ County> can also receive free, unbiased assistance with plan comparisons from the Elder Benefit Specialists at the **<Insert YOUR AGENCY NAME HERE>.**

Don’t let this opportunity pass you by! Go to Medicare.gov to find and compare plans online or for local assistance call the <YOUR CONTACT INFO HERE>**.**

Assistance is also available through the following resources:

* 1-800-MEDICARE or [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
* Medigap helpline 1-800-242-1060
* Disability Drug Helpline 1-800-926-4862 (if under age 60)
* Wisconsin Medigap Prescription Drug Helpline 1-855-677-2783