



Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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It is Open Enrollment Season for Medicare

Eligible individuals have until Dec. 7 to enroll or make changes to Medicare plans.

PECOS, Texas (Nov. 8, 2021) – It is open enrollment season for Medicare, but the window to register for these essential health plans is limited. If you or someone you love is 65 years of age or older, knowing how to register for Medicare plans is essential.

Medicare is a longstanding and well-beloved healthcare plan that is used by millions of Americans. Although there has been a lot of advertising for the insurance product known as Medicare Advantage, Reeves County Hospital District (RCHD) encourages area residents to consider the benefits of Original Medicare.

“Original Medicare is not only the more popular option, but also the best choice for receiving healthcare in Reeves County,” says Brenda McKinney, CEO of RCHD. “Seniors in our community rely on the benefits of Original Medicare for their hospital, medical, and prescription drug coverages, and we want to ensure they continue to have access to these services.”

The Original Medicare program began in 1965 when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a bill that led to the formation of both the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Over the years, Congress has made many changes to the Medicare program that expanded coverage and made more people eligible for benefits.

Today, there are three essential parts of Medicare: Part A, Part B, and Part D.

Medicare Part A provides hospital insurance, covering in-patient care in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, hospice care, and home health care.

Medicare Part B provides medical insurance for services from doctors and medical providers, out-patient care, durable medical equipment, and many preventative health services (screenings, vaccinations, and wellness visits).

Medicare Part D provides drug coverage, covering part of the cost of prescription drugs and many recommended vaccinations.

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A fourth option, known as Medicare Part C or Medicare Advantage, is a Medicare-approved plan from a private company that offers an alternative to original Medicare for health and drug coverage. It essentially bundles Parts A, B, and D. In most cases, Medicare Advantage requires you to use doctors in the plan's network, which can create confusion for patients and limit their choice in medical providers.

In general, services offered through Medicare Part A and Part B (also known as Original Medicare) require fewer pre-approvals and result in fewer restrictions than Medicare Advantage plans. Despite efforts to sell Medicare Advantage plans by private insurance companies, RCHD prefers patients choose Original Medicare. This option ensures a more seamless experience when it comes to receiving healthcare from the hospital, most local medical providers, and other programs and services offered by RCHD.

Although Medicare Advantage plans sometimes offer certain perks not available through Original Medicare, they can also limit your choice of providers and can require more referrals for healthcare services.

Regardless of the plans you choose, ensuring health insurance coverage is essential. Open enrollment for Medicare began on Oct. 15. Qualifying individuals can enroll or make changes to their existing plans during this limited-time window, which ends on Dec. 7.

For more information regarding Medicare and to learn about your choice of healthcare for individuals ages 65 and older, please visit www.choosingmedicare.org or call Brenda McKinney, CEO of RCHD, at 432-447-3551 ext. 6601.

To learn more about local healthcare programs and services in Reeves County, visit www.reevescountyhospital.com.

About Reeves County Hospital District

Reeves County Hospital District (RCHD) provides healthcare services for people in Reeves County and neighboring communities in West Texas. Founded in 1954, RCHD, a Level IV Trauma Center, offers a wide variety of medical services, including emergency care, diagnostic radiology, physical therapy, general surgery, a clinical laboratory, and more. RCHD also operates American Home Health and Hospice and the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, which offers family care, immunizations, and other medical services. For more information, please visit www.reevescountyhospital.com.

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Reeves County Hospital District

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