



Press Release
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Media Contact
Venetta Seals | rchcares@reevesregional.com
432-447-3551 ext. 2243

Reeves Regional Health Explains Why Traditional Medicare Is Often the Best Choice for Seniors in Reeves County

Reeves Regional Health urges seniors to carefully evaluate their options during Medicare open enrollment.

PECOS, Texas (Nov. 11, 2024) – Medicare's open enrollment period is here, and you may have seen a surge of ads promoting various Medicare plans, including Medicare Advantage. Reeves Regional Health (RRH) encourages individuals aged 65 and older to carefully weigh their options and, in most cases, choose traditional Medicare over Medicare Advantage insurance products.

"We have a growing population in Reeves County and the surrounding area that either depends on Medicare or will soon be eligible," says Brenda McKinney, CEO of Reeves Regional Health. "There's a lot of confusing information out there, and with celebrities endorsing different plans, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But I can assure you that for the majority of seniors in Pecos and the greater Reeves County area, traditional Medicare is often the best choice."

With traditional Medicare, patients have access to a wide range of local healthcare providers, enabling them to maintain strong, ongoing relationships with doctors who understand their unique needs. This program, which individuals have paid into throughout their working lives, ensures that care decisions are made by patients and their trusted healthcare providers—not by insurance companies.

In contrast, Medicare Advantage plans often shift control of the patient's health to insurance companies, which can lead to restricted access to care and limit the treatments that patients and their primary care providers believe are best.

"Traditional Medicare allows patients to pick the doctors and specialists they trust, which is vital for seniors who need personalized care," McKinney adds. "This focus on the doctor-patient relationship leads to better health outcomes and a higher quality of care overall."

While Medicare Advantage plans can appear attractive, offering additional services at no extra cost, these plans often come with trade-offs that may not be obvious. The saying, "There's no such thing as a free lunch," certainly applies here.

"Under Medicare Advantage, you might receive some added benefits, but the limitations imposed by insurance companies can hinder your ability to receive the care and treatment you need," McKinney warns. "Access to care that you and your healthcare provider decide is best could be limited or denied based on the policies of the insurance company."

Reeves Regional Health strongly encourages seniors to think carefully about the long-term benefits of traditional Medicare and the freedom it provides in choosing healthcare services.

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Traditional Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage: What's at Stake?

With traditional Medicare, patients retain the ability to visit any healthcare provider that accepts Medicare. This is crucial in rural areas like Reeves County, where maintaining a close connection with local primary care providers can have a significant impact on a patient's health. The personalized approach provided through traditional Medicare fosters a strong relationship between patients and their healthcare teams, enabling better, more informed medical decisions.

In contrast, Medicare Advantage plans often come with provider networks, meaning that patients may be restricted to seeing only those doctors within their plan's network. This restriction can complicate care, especially for those who require specialized services or have complex medical conditions.

"Rural healthcare settings depend on flexibility and trust between patients and providers," McKinney notes. "In Reeves County, patients benefit greatly from knowing their primary care providers are making healthcare decisions based on what's in their best interest—not what an insurance company allows."

McKinney stresses that this is particularly important for seniors in rural areas, where transportation and access to specialized care may already be more challenging. "Traditional Medicare helps ensure that patients can access the care they need without unnecessary obstacles."

Empowering Seniors to Make Informed Decisions

"At Reeves Regional Health, we believe traditional Medicare offers not only comprehensive and reliable coverage but also the peace of mind that comes with knowing your healthcare decisions are in your hands," says McKinney. "It's the best choice for seniors who want to maintain that essential connection with their healthcare providers, especially in a rural setting like ours."

Reeves Regional Health is committed to providing high-quality care and helping seniors understand their healthcare options. By promoting the benefits of traditional Medicare, RRH seeks to empower individuals to make informed decisions about their healthcare and take control of their medical journey.

Medicare Open Enrollment is Here—Make the Right Choice for Your Health

Open enrollment for Medicare began on Oct. 15, and individuals eligible for Medicare can either enroll or make changes to their current plans until Dec. 7. It's an important window of opportunity for seniors to review their options and choose a plan that best meets their healthcare needs.

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“We encourage everyone eligible for Medicare to carefully review their options and seek advice from trusted sources,” McKinney advises. “Our team is available to help seniors navigate this process and make informed decisions about their healthcare.”

For more information regarding Medicare and healthcare options for individuals ages 65 and older, visit www.choosingmedicare.org. To speak with a representative from Reeves Regional Health about Medicare questions, please call Brenda McKinney, CEO at 432-447-3551, ext. 1125

About Reeves Regional Health

Reeves Regional Health (RRH), formally known as Reeves County Hospital District, provides healthcare services for Reeves County and neighboring West Texas communities. Founded in 1954, RRH, a Level IV Trauma Center, offers various medical services, including emergency care, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, general surgery, a clinical laboratory, and more. RRH also operates Reeves Regional Home Health and Hospice and Reeves Regional Rural Health Clinic. In November 2022, RRH began serving patients from a new \$115 million, 140,000-square-foot campus. For more information, please visit www.reevesregional.com.

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