



Press Release
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Local Hospital Encourages Seniors to Take a Closer Look at Their Medicare Options

Traditional Medicare vs Medicare Advantage plans

PECOS, Texas (November 3, 2025) – As Medicare Open Enrollment continues through December 7, Reeves Regional Health is encouraging community members to take time to carefully review their healthcare coverage. Hospital leaders say that while Medicare Advantage plans may sound appealing, they can sometimes create challenges for patients who want freedom to choose their own doctors or receive care close to home.

“Many of our local seniors have spent their entire working lives paying into Original Medicare,” said Brenda McKinney, CEO. “We simply want people to make informed choices—not to be influenced by marketing claims that don’t always tell the whole story.”

Unlike Traditional Medicare, which is managed by the federal government and accepted by most hospitals and doctors nationwide, Medicare Advantage plans are administered by private insurance companies. These plans often come with provider networks, prior authorizations, and referral requirements that can affect how—and where—patients receive care.

“In a large urban area, that might not seem like a big deal,” McKinney said. “But here in West Texas, when your plan doesn’t include your local hospital or clinic, that can mean traveling hours for care you could otherwise receive right here at home.”

Traditional Medicare generally allows patients to choose their preferred doctors and hospitals, offering the flexibility to seek specialized care when needed. Reeves Regional Health providers note that this freedom often results in smoother coordination of care and quicker access to medical services.

While some Medicare Advantage plans advertise added perks—such as gym memberships or dental coverage—those benefits should be reviewed carefully. “We just want people to weigh those extras against the possible trade-offs,” McKinney said. “For many seniors, keeping control over where they receive care is far more valuable.”

The hospital recommends that anyone approaching or currently enrolled in Medicare take the time this fall to compare both options side by side, considering their healthcare history, preferred providers, and

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travel needs. Reeves Regional Health staff are available to help patients understand how coverage choices may affect local care access.

“At the end of the day, our message is simple,” McKinney added. “We want seniors to protect the access they’ve earned—to the care they need, from the people they know and trust.”

Those who wish to learn more about the differences between plans—or discuss how coverage decisions could impact access to local service are encouraged to visit www.choosingmedicare.org for clear, unbiased or they may reach out to Brenda McKinney, CEO, at 432-447-3551, ext. 1125.

Open Enrollment ends December 7. Don’t wait to review your options and make sure your plan supports care close to home.

About Reeves Regional Health

Reeves Regional Health (RRH), a non-profit Level IV Trauma Center in Pecos, Texas, has been caring for Reeves County and surrounding West Texas communities since 1954. In 2022, the hospital opened its new facility, combining modern technology with the warmth of hometown care. In 2025, RRH was recognized as one of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals nationwide and also earned National Recognition as a Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety by the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN).

Our Mission and Vision: We are committed to exceptional care through servant leadership and strive to be the trusted beacon of health in our region—enhancing quality of life through innovation, compassion, and excellence. Guided by our WECARE values—Wellness, Excellence, Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Equality—we put patients and families at the heart of everything we do.

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