



Dear Stan,

I have been enrolled in the same Midtown Medicare Advantage Plan for two years. Now in early January I have learned that my primary care doctor and oncologist no longer accept my plan. My pharmacist also told me an expensive cancer drug I take is no longer covered and I would have to pay hundreds of dollars out of pocket.

Is there anything I can do now to get my medical and prescription needs covered by Medicare?

*Felix
Albuquerque*

**Report Medicare Related Fraud by calling
the New Mexico Senior Medicare Patrol
(SMP) at**

1-800-432-2080

**The SMP will provide you with the
information you need to PREVENT,
DETECT and REPORT Medicare fraud,
errors, and abuse.**

Dear Felix,

Thanks for your question. Since you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, you have the option to change coverage during the **Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MAOEP)** that starts January 1 through March 31. Unfortunately, people who have Original Medicare with a standalone Part D plan will not be able

to use the **MAOEP** to switch coverage. During the **MAOEP** you can enroll in another Medicare Advantage Plan or switch back to Original Medicare and pick up a standard Part D plan. The changes you make during the **MAOEP** will be effective the first of the following month following the enrollment.

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If you need assistance reviewing your options, call the **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)** at **1-800-432-2080** and request to speak with a **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)** counselor. **SHIP** counselors can help you navigate the **MAOEP**.

If you are income eligible, you can apply for the **Medicare Savings Program (MSP)**. If you are single and earn \$1660 a month or less or a couple earning \$2239 a month or less, you may qualify for one of three **MSP** programs that can help with the Part B monthly premium costs. New Mexico does not require an assets test for the **MSP** program. Call the **ADRC** at **1-800-432-2080** and request to be screened for an **MSP**.

Stan,
Volunteer Counselor, SHIP and SMP

Important Reminders about Medicare Private Plan Marketing Rules

Insurance Agents & plans **MAY NOT**:

- ◆ “Cold” Call, use door-to-door marketing, or market plans using any other unsolicited contact
- ◆ Enroll people in plans without their permission
- ◆ Lie to get a beneficiary to enroll in a plan
- ◆ Sign someone up for a plan over the phone unless that person called them

If you experience a Medicare private plan marketing violation, call the **SMP** at **1-800-432-2080** to report the issue.

General Enrollment Period Alert

People who missed their opportunity to enroll in Part B can use the **General Enrollment Period (GEP)** that starts **January 1 through March 31**. Coverage starts the next month. Call the **ADRC** at **1-800-432-2080** and request the help of a **SHIP** counselor.

SHIP & SMP Program Volunteering: Learn more about Medicare and ways to better serve the public by contacting us about available SHIP SMP volunteer opportunities at **1-800-432-2080. We provide training on Medicare content, and can work with your schedule. We can serve more people together!**



SHIP

State Health Insurance
Assistance Program

