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SEAL OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 15, 2013

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The window to sign up for Medicare prescription plans opens today

Alaska's Medicare Information Office busy helping Alaskans choose best option

ANCHORAGE — Alaska's Medicare Information Office reminds Alaskans with Medicare that it's time to review 2014 prescription drug plans. Medicare is a federal health insurance program for Americans 65 and older or with certain disabilities. The program's annual enrollment window for prescription drug plans runs Oct. 15–Dec. 7.

Companies' plans and people's medication needs often change, so it's a good idea to check new options each year for the best value. Also, Medicare charges its beneficiaries permanent late-enrollment fees if they do not sign up for Part D the first time they are eligible.

Alaskans do not need to sign up for Part D if they already have prescription coverage through a health care insurance plan such as the military's TriCare or most employer-funded retiree health plans. Also, Alaskans who receive Medicaid as well as Medicare must choose a plan, but are exempt from enrollment deadlines. Questions? Contact Alaska's Medicare Information Office or Medicare.

For help comparing Part D plan options, Alaskans can contact their local Medicare Information Office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 269-3680 in Anchorage or 1-800-478-6065 toll-free statewide. They may also be able to arrange one-on-one appointments with one of many counselors around the state who are trained to assist Alaskans. Help is also available from national Medicare counselors at 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227) or medicare.gov, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Alaska's Medicare Information Office is part of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services. For more information, visit medicare.alaska.gov.

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