



HEALTH CARE UPDATE: MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CHOICES

INTRODUCTION

- Health Insurance is insurance against loss by illness or bodily injury.
- Health Care is the treatment of illness or injuries.
- Wellness is good physical & mental health obtained by healthy diet, physical activity and healthy lifestyle.

HEALTH INSURANCE MARKET

- Individual Plans
- Group Plans
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Workers Comp
- Auto
- Personal Liability

HEALTH INSURANCE TERMS

- **Premium** – monthly cost of policy
- **Copay** – flat amount charged for health care service
- **Coinsurance** – percentage charged for health care service
- **Deductible** – initial payment due to health care provider before insurance pays
- **Out of pocket max** – the most the member pays out of pocket – does not include premium



HEALTH INSURANCE TERMS



- **Network** – the providers that have contracted with the insurance company
- **PPO** – Preferred Provider Organization – a product that has an out-of-network benefit
- **HMO** – Health Maintenance Organization – a product that does not have an out-of-network benefit
- **Emergency Coverage** – most plans allow for emergency coverage notwithstanding network

INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE:ACA

- Insurance Companies
 - No premium subsidy available
- Healthcare.gov in PA
 - Coverage through Insurance Companies
 - Premium Subsidies
 - Other Cost Sharing covered – copays, deductibles, coinsurance, out-of-pocket max



INDIVIDUAL ENROLLMENT

- Open Enrollment – November 1 – December 15, 2018
- Special Enrollment Periods – new baby, change in marital status, loss of employer coverage/Cobra
- CHIP/Medicaid

CHANGES FOR 2019

- Tax penalty goes away
- Non compliant short term plans have medical underwriting
- Upper income cap for subsidies
 - Individuals: \$48,560
 - Family of four: \$100,400

COMMUNITY HEALTH CHOICES

- Benefit guide:

http://www.healthchoices.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c__264103.pdf

- Implementation guideline:

http://www.healthchoices.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c__227013.pdf

- Plan Comparison chart:

http://www.healthchoices.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c__278824.pdf

MEDICARE BASICS

Medicare is a Federal health insurance program

Administered by: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Eligibility and Enrollment handled by: SSA & Railroad Retirement Board

1965: Medicare (Part A & B)

1996: Medicare Advantage (Part C)

2006: Prescription Drug Program (Part D)

2010: *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)*

NEW FOR MEDICARE

- Open Enrollment Period: January 1 – March 31
- Network changes in 2019
- New narrow network plans
- Highmark Medicare Advantage plan (Security Blue & Freedom Blue) have guaranteed issue for Medigap Blue during OEP.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- 65 years or older US Citizen or permanent legal resident
- Under 65 year of age and receive disability payments for 24 months (SSDI)
- People with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD on dialysis) or Lou Gehrig's disease

MEDICARE PART A: HOSPITAL COVERAGE

Cost Sharing for 2019

- Part A: Generally Free (or up to \$422/mo)
 - \$1,340 for a hospital stay 1 – 60 days; \$335/day for a hospital stay for days 61 – 90; \$670/day for a hospital stay for days 91 – 150; All costs for 150+ days
 - Hospice
 - Home Health Services
 - Skilled Nursing Facility - \$167.50/day for days 21 – 100 for each benefit period – covered after 3 day hospital stay
 - Blood

MEDICARE PART B: DOCTORS

Premium for 2019 is \$135.50/month

- Medicare Part B Recipients \$185 deductible, then 20% of all charges.
- Exception for higher earners
- You can pay your Part B premium out of your social security check

PART D – PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS

- Prescription Drug Coverage
- Available from private insurers
- You must obtain a Part D plan when you become eligible, or you will pay a penalty when you do sign up.
- Uses a formulary & tiers
- Coverage Gap:
 - What counts toward the gap? deductible, coinsurance, copays.
 - Discount on brand name drugs in the coverage gap

HOW TO APPLY

You must sign up for B when you become eligible or you will pay a penalty when you do.

1. Apply via the telephone at Social Security Administration (SSA): SSA at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)
2. Paper forms can be requested at: SSA at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)
3. Online forms available at:
 - <http://www.ssa.gov/prescriptionhelp/>
4. Additional information is available at:
 - <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/I0525.html>

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLANS (MEDIGAP)

- No Managed Care/Medicare's network
- Private insurance coverage to cover “gaps”
- Still pay your Part B Premium
- You will be medically underwritten outside of Open Enrollment (6 months after joining Part B)
- Premiums are based on your age, zip code, tobacco use and/or gender
- Covers certain cost sharing (deductibles, coinsurance, copayments)
- Secondary to Medicare

HOW TO CHOOSE?

- Check network providers
- Check formulary
- Annualize monthly premium
- Project services needed in the year (based on known problems & family history)
- Calculate copays, coinsurance & deductibles for these services
- Choose most affordable plan

PROGRAMS TO SAVE

- Medical Assistance - \$1,005 or less; \$2,000 in assets
- PACE and PACEnet for Prescription Drug Plans
- Low Income Subsidy/Extra Help - \$1,508 or less; \$13,820 in assets
 - Medicare Part D subsidy
- Medicare Savings Program - \$1,357 or less; \$7,390 in assets
 - State pays Part B premium – even w/penalty

PACE/PACENET INFORMATION

Income	Individual	Married
Percentage of FPL	133%	120%
Yearly	\$14,500	\$17,700
Monthly	\$1,208	\$1,470
Income	Individual	Married
Yearly	\$23,500	\$31,500
Monthly	\$1,958	\$2,625
	PACE	PACENET
RX Benefit	\$6.00 & \$9.00, potentially lower based on income level	\$8.00 & \$15.00
Premium Benefit	Covers the premium if RX plan is a partner plan	No premium benefit

IMPORTANT DATES

- Parts A & B
 - Initial enrollment – 3 months before, the month of and 3 months after 65th birthday
 - January 1 – March 31 for July 1 effective date for Parts A & B
- Medicare Advantage
 - October 15 – December 7 in 2018 for January 1, 2019 effective date
 - January 1 – March 31: Open Enrollment Period
 - Anytime throughout the year – Special Enrollment Periods

SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS

- Dual eligible
- Chronic Disease SNP
- Move out of service area: 60 days
- Institutionalized – nursing home
- Lose employer coverage – 8 month period
- Low Income Subsidy/Extra Help
- Medicare Savings Program
- Pace/Pacenet

65 YEARS OF AGE AND STILL WORKING

- You can keep your employer plan and not be charged the Part B penalty.
***COBRA doesn't count as employer coverage
- Sign up for Medicare Part A only - \$0 hospital coverage
- You cannot have any parts of Medicare and still contribute to a Health Savings Account

FARM TO TABLE UPDATES

- Farm to Table “Eat Fresh, Buy Local” Conference is moving into the Pittsburgh Home & Garden Show! March 1 – 10. Tickets are available for anyone on WIC, SNAP, Medicare or Medicaid
- Farm to Table is publishing our Western PA Local Food Guide March 1 – in magazine format & mobile app.
- Farm to Table Buy Local, our new non-profit 501c3, providing Cooking Clubs in affordable housing.



CONTACT ME

ERIN HART

INDEPENDENT BROKER

EMAIL: EHART@AMERICAN-HEALTHCARE.NET

CALL: (412)657-3028