



NEWS COLUMN – Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

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**Open Enrollment for Medicare Ends December 7th –
AAA7 Available for Assistance and Help**

**Pamela K. Matura, Executive Director, Area Agency on Aging District 7
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Are you a Medicare beneficiary? Are you aware that open enrollment for some Medicare benefits ends December 7th? Open enrollment is the time of the year when changes can be made in the plans and providers you've chosen for your Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage and/or Medicare Advantage option. If you wish to make changes, you can only do so between October 15th and December 7th. Open enrollment is also a good time to run drug comparisons to make sure the Medicare Part D plan you are on is still your best option as Medicare Part D plans do change from year to year.

Individuals who receive the Low Income Subsidy (LIS) can change their plans anytime of the year. Even if you are receiving help through LIS, it is a good idea to check your plans to make sure all of your medications will be covered on your current plan for 2016.

The Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) is a local resource you can utilize for assistance with the open enrollment process and can be reached by calling 1-800-582-7277.

To be eligible for Medicare health insurance plans, you must be at least 65, or be on Social Security disability for two years, and be a US resident or legal citizen for at least five years.

Original Medicare, sometimes referred to as Part A and Part B, helps with hospital, doctor and outpatient services. More than likely, a Medicare supplement is needed in order to cover the costs not covered by Part A and Part B. Medicare Advantage, or Part C, combines Part A, B and D in to one plan. During open enrollment, beneficiaries have the opportunity to make changes to these plans that provides better support for their health and well-being. It's a time to change what doesn't work and keep what does.

More information about Medicare plans and options is available at www.medicare.gov.

Locally, the AAA7 is available as a resource to those in its ten-county district who would like assistance with Medicare or open enrollment. Counties covered by the AAA7 include Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton. For questions or assistance, call toll-free at 1-800-582-7277, extension 250.