

ARC - SHIP

Switching Part D Drug Plans *Open Enrollment Period 10/15 – 12/7*

How to determine to stay with your current Pt D plan or switch to another?

Very often Savings Can Occur by switching to another Part D plan during Open Enrollment.

Using the www.medicare.gov, the only reliable method, you can examine all the drug plans available in your zip code, including your current plan, for next year. Enter your drugs and two pharmacies; compare the "Estimated Annual Drug Cost" for your current plan to the others and look for a savings. At no charge, SHIP will provide a detailed comparison evaluation and full explanation of your plan and others. Not always is a switch cost effective.

➤ **Points to Examine with Your Existing Plan for Next Year**

By Oct 1st your current plan will send details and costs for the next year such as premium & deductible costs, formulary drug lists and other important information. Look it over for changes or increases, the drug plan information does not point out specific changes for you.

Ask yourself these questions

- ✓ Is your current drug plan continuing for next year?
- ✓ Are all your drugs on the formulary?
- ✓ Are drugs in the same tier?
- ✓ Is your deductible the same?
- ✓ Did the premium go up a reasonable amount, \$5 or less a month?

If you answer NO to any above, it is worth a review and compare

Other Questions to ask:

- ✓ Have you added or dropped any drugs or switched from a brand to generic?
- ✓ Have too many of your drugs been affected by "restrictions" or limitations?
- ✓ Have you been dissatisfied with your plan?

If you answer yes to any above, it is worth a review and compare

IMPORTANT About Switching Part D Plans:

- **Do Not ever disenroll or cancel** the Part D plan you are currently with when you want to change to another. Simply enroll in the new plan by Dec 7. Trust this method. The Medicare system will automatically cancel your current drug plan by Dec 31 and your new plan is activated by Jan 1st. This is unique but works accurately.

Social Security –Do Not have the premium cost deducted from your Social Security check/deposit as recommended by Social Security. Any of the other payment options work well.

Enrolling on line at the www.medicare.gov or by phone directly to the drug plan is reliable.

Assistance is available from SHIP Counselors at ARC by appointment: 309-888-9099

*SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Program)
A program of Illinois Department on Aging*