

MEDICARE PART D DAYS AT THE COUNTY CONNECTION

Additional Senior Service representatives will be available for one-on-one assistance in comparing the Medicare Prescription Drug Plans for 2008 on the Medicare Plan Finder. **Registration is required**, you must call the County Connection at 732-288-7777 to register.

Schedule of Dates - November and December Daytime Hours: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wed.	Nov. 4	Tues.	Dec 8
Mon.	Nov. 9	Tues.	Dec 10
Mon.	Nov. 16	Mon.	Dec 14
Tue.	Nov. 17	Fri.	Dec 18
Fri.	Nov. 20	Tues.	Dec 22

Evening Hours Monday, November 30th, 3 - 8 p.m.

Information on other sites offering Medicare Part D assistance will be available upon request by calling the Office of Senior Services at:
732-929-2091 or 800-668-4899.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS NOVEMBER 15TH

PLANS CHANGE. YOU CHANGE. SHOP AND COMPARE.

Each year plans make adjustments to what they cost and what they cover. Now is the time for people with Medicare to review the changes being made by their current plan and compare it to others to make sure it still meets their needs. Those who don't have prescription drug coverage can also enroll in a drug plan during open enrollment.

Some people may see significant premium increases or changes—such as reduced coverage in the gap—if they stay in the same prescription drug plan in 2010. Medicare encourages individuals to review how their plans are changing and what other options are available.

There are four ways to review and compare plans:

- 1. Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227, TTY 1-877-486-2048).** Help is available from a trained Medicare representatives 24 hours/7 days a week.
- 2. Visit www.medicare.gov.** Compare costs, coverage and more. Get an estimate of your out-of-pocket costs for the year.
- 3. See the listing of plans in your “Medicare & You” handbook** and the information sent to you by your plan.

4. Talk with local Medicare experts. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program at **Ocean County Office of Senior Services** is available to help as well as the 10 sites listed below.

People with Medicare should also be aware of Medicare fraud and identity theft. To help protect Medicare beneficiaries when speaking with plans and others about their Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare urges them to protect their Medicare number as they would their credit card information. You should not give out your information to anyone who comes to your home (or calls you) uninvited, selling Medicare-related products. If you or someone you love is not sure if a provider is approved by Medicare, call **1-800-MEDICARE**.

Important Medicare Enrollment Dates:

October 31—Annual “Notice of Change” letter from Part D plan must be mailed by this date.

Nov 15—“Creditable Coverage” letter from Employer/Union Plans Administrator must be mailed by this date.

Nov 15—Open Enrollment Begins Enroll as soon as possible – the sooner the better – to avoid any inconvenience at the pharmacy counter in January.

Dec 31—Open Enrollment Ends

Jan 1—Coverage Begins

The **Ocean County Office of Senior Services** reminds people with Medicare in Ocean County it is time to re-evaluate their health and prescription drug coverage.

SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) counselors will be available to help people compare and enroll in a plan after November 15th. SHIP counselors provide free, unbiased information and assistance to people with Medicare or their representatives. Please call one of the locations below to make an appointment to sit with a SHIP counselor and go over your options.

Ocean County Office of Senior Services
732-929-2091, 1-800-668-4899, 1-877-222-3737
www.co.ocean.nj.us

County Connection/Ocean County Mall	732-288-7777
Berkeley Senior Outreach	732-244-9600
Brick Twp. Senior Center & Outreach	732-920-8686
Community Services Inc. Outreach	732-367-1400, Ext. 21
Long Beach Island Senior Center & Outreach	609-494-8861
Manchester Twp. Outreach	732-657-8121 Ext. 5002
Shore Area Outreach	732-892-5514
Toms River Senior Center & Outreach	732-341-1000 Ext. 8461
Lighthouse at Community Medical Center	1-800-621-0096
Elder-Med at Southern Ocean County Hospital — The Ocean Club	609-978-3559