



Press Release

**For Immediate Release
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**For More Information
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“Medicare Monday” Comes To Colorado on November 10

Denver, Co. Greedy sales agents and less than ethical individuals have caused Medicare to take drastic measures to protect Medicare beneficiaries. This fall Medicare beneficiaries will receive multiple mailings from prescription drug plan companies and health plans, but they will notice an absence of phone calls and other educational programs due to Medicare rules.

This could be a boon for individuals who are not looking to change plans, but could be a disadvantage for those beneficiaries looking to compare policies and make decisions about whether to stay with the coverage they currently have or to make a change. Beneficiaries who want to do comparison shopping may have difficulty finding an agent who can talk with them about the products that are available in their area. Prior to November 15, beneficiaries can talk to advocates and Medicare representatives, but not to insurance agents.

On Monday, November 10 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am, the Colorado Gerontological Society and Medicare Rx Access Network of Colorado are hosting Medicare Monday in Colorado. Experts from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will speak on the new changes and choices that face Medicare beneficiaries.

As usual, beneficiaries will have even more questions, fewer choices and higher prices this year when choosing a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or Medicare Advantage – Prescription Drug Plan according to Medicare which announced almost 100 plans for Colorado.

Formularies have changed, prices have increased, and restrictions for prescription drug plans may be different for the 2009 plans. Beneficiaries are encouraged to review their current plan. Individuals who are satisfied with the coverage, benefits and price will not have to make a change. To find out if you need to make a change, attend Medicare Monday in your area.

Under the new marketing rules, drug plans and health plans can only provide information about the plan if the Medicare beneficiary specifically requests the information. Agents are limited to discussing any products that are not agreed upon prior to the appointment. Agents are also prohibited from contacting beneficiaries unless the phone call is recorded.

Individuals can enroll either online or through an agent beginning November 15 and continuing through December 31, 2008.

Individuals who have difficulty paying for prescriptions may be eligible for Extra Help. Individuals who meet income and resource guidelines may also be eligible for the Medicare Savings Program. Participants will also learn about free assistance available through the pharmaceutical companies for Medicare beneficiaries who have to pay the full amount for prescriptions through the coverage gap or the doughnut hole.

Medicare Monday is being held at seven locations throughout Colorado. It is free and open to the public. Call 1-866-499-5723 to make reservations which are suggested to guarantee adequate seating and refreshments. Leave your name and the location that you wish to attend. A comparison chart of health plans and prescription drug plans prepared by the Colorado Division of Insurance will be distributed.

Individuals not able to attend Medicare Monday in Colorado Springs, can call 303-333-3482 for more information and assistance, as well as other locations throughout the state.

Eileen Doherty, MS is the Executive Director of the Colorado Gerontological Society. She has more than 30 years of experience in education and training, clinical practice, research, and public policy in gerontology. You may reach her at 303-333-3482 or Doherty001@att.net

LOCATIONS FOR 2008 MEDICARE MONDAY

Northglenn Senior Center	11801 Community Center Dr	Northglenn	CO	80233
Heritage Club of Denver	2020 S Monroe	Denver	CO	80222
Silver Key Senior Center	2250 Bott Av	Colorado Springs	CO	80904
College View	2525 S Decatur St	Denver	CO	80219
Cherry Creek Retirement	14555 E Hampden Ave	Aurora	CO	80014
The Commons at Hilltop, Garden Room	625 27½ Rd	Grand Junction	CO	81506
Parkview Hospital: Rosemont Room	400 West 16th St.	Pueblo	CO	81003