Medicare Monday Across Colorado

Enrolling in Medicare and keeping up with the changing policies and guidelines can seem overwhelming. To learn more and receive guidance through the process, join the Colorado Gerontological Society at an informative Medicare Monday Workshop to learn about changes to Medicare for 2019.

Join us this year and receive flu, pneumonia, shingles and whooping cough immunizations provided by Walgreens Pharmacy at each location. Foot screens by the Visiting Nurse Association will also be held at Schlessman, Eaton, St. Andrew’s Village and RiverPointe locations.

Experts on Medicare will present:
- Parts A, B, C, and D
- Premiums, Deductibles and Co-Pays
- Help with Costs of Medicare Part B and Part D
- New Medicare Cards
- Comparison Shopping for a Medicare Supplement or a Medicare Advantage Plan

If you or a loved one face any of these questions or simply want to find an experienced, free and impartial counselor to discuss your Medicare coverage with, then attend Medicare Monday. Sixteen sessions will be held across the state. Find a location and join us at one of the workshops listed below. Reservations are suggested to ensure the proper amount of materials and refreshments.

Monday, October 15, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Unless otherwise noted)
- Northglenn Senior Center
  11801 Community Center Dr.
  Northglenn 80233
- Schlessman YMCA Denver
  2625 S. Colorado Blvd.
  Denver 80222
- Servicios de la Raza (Taught in Spanish)
  3131 W 14th Ave
  Denver 80204

Monday, October 22, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Unless otherwise noted)
- Eaton Senior Communities
  333 S. Eaton St.
  Lakewood 80226
- Grace Pointe Continuing Care Senior Campus
  1919 68th Ave.
  Greeley 80634
- Third Street Center
  520 S. 3rd St.
  Carbondale, CO 81623

Thursday, October 25, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- EaglePointe Recreation Center (Taught in Spanish)
  6060 Parkway Dr
  Commerce City 80022

Monday, October 29, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Foothills Park & Rec Center
  Peak Wellness Center
  6612 S. Ward St.
  Littleton, CO 80127
- Holly Creek
  550 E. Peakview Ave.
  Centennial 80121
- RiverPointe of Littleton
  5225 S. Prince St.
  Littleton 80123
- The Bridge at Alamosa
  3407 Carroll St.
  Alamosa, 81101

Tuesday, October 30, 2018
- Salida Community Center
  305 F St. (9:30 - 11:30 a.m.)
  Salida 81201
- Holiday Inn Montrose
  1391 S Townsend Ave.
  Montrose 81401
- Bill Heddeles Recreation Center
  531 Palmer St. (2:00 - 4:00 pm)
  Delta 81416

RESERVATIONS 1-866-294-3971

IMMUNIZATIONS AT MEDICARE MONDAY
Walgreens Pharmacy is offering flu, pneumonia, shingles, and whooping cough shots. Call 1-866-294-3971 with your insurance information and reserve a spot today!

Theatrical Performance Discounts Available
Go to www.denvercenter.org or call 303.893.4100 and use our discount code SENIORANSWERS for up to 20% off on all shows during the 2018-2019 season.
A portion of the proceeds will go to support Colorado Gerontological Society!
Our Health Insurance Literacy program focuses on providing education to older adults regarding their health insurance. The goal is to provide them with the information they need to better use their health insurance effectively. Educational trainings as well as one-on-one sessions are provided to older adults and their families. We have developed a toolkit, printed in English, Spanish, and Mandarin, to provide older adults and their families with the tools they need.

Do you have questions about your health insurance? How do I use my health insurance more effectively? How can I make the best use of my time when talking to my doctor? What questions should I be asking both my doctor and pharmacist? When should I go to urgent care or the emergency room? What shots are recommended: Shingles, Flu, and Pneumonia?

If you said yes to any of these questions, we can help you. Call Lynn Davis at 303-333-3482 to have a toolkit mailed or to schedule group or individual counseling. Watch YouTube videos with your family and friends by going online to: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9UviQk2OjEcchzdVwZEA.

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Tips to ensure safe receipt of your new Medicare card

The Social Security Administration (SSA) will be issuing new Medicare cards to all Colorado recipients before the end of the 2018, as part of a staggered nationwide rollout. The new cards will no longer display your Social Security Number (SSN), thereby making the bearer less susceptible to identity theft.

Here are 7 quick tips to ensure you safely receive your new card:
1. Visit your online SSA account (https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/) NOW to verify your correct mailing address.
2. For more information about the new cards, visit https://www.medicare.gov/newcard. You can also sign up to receive an email when your new card is in the mail.
3. Finally, sign up for Informed Delivery from USPS here: https://www.usps.com/informeddelivery. With this free service from USPS, you can get a daily email with images of mail coming to your mailbox soon, including your new Medicare cards.
4. Watch out for possible scams surrounding the new Medicare cards. You do NOT need to do anything to receive your new card. BEWARE of any attempts by scammers to tell you otherwise. You don’t have to pay anyone to receive your new card, nor should you have to provide any personal information to a caller claiming to be from SSA or Medicare.
5. If you believe you’ve been scammed regarding your new Medicare card, or if you have other concerns related to your account, call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).
6. Once you get your new card, SHRED your old card—remember, it has your Social Security Number, so you don’t want to leave it lying around!
7. If you suspect your new card was stolen from the mail, report it to U.S. Postal Inspectors at https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/contactUs/filecomplaint.aspx or by calling 1-877-876-2455 and asking for a “Representative.” As the federal law enforcement arm of the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is committed to stopping fraud in our communities.

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CGS Makes Grants for Vision, Hearing and Dental Needs

The Society is accepting grant applications for dental, vision, and hearing services for persons age 60 and over who live in one of the following counties; Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, or Jefferson. The grants are limited and pay for selected services.

Grants for assistance are prioritized based on social and economic need. Interested older adults are encouraged to fill out the required application form. Seniors who are on the wait list at this time do not need to submit another form. To apply for any or all of these grants, call 303-333-3482 for an application and return it to the Colorado Gerontological Society at 1330 Leyden St, #148, Denver, CO 80220.

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December 31, Deadline to File For Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate

December 31, 2018 is the deadline for individuals age 65+ or disabled who pay rent or property taxes and whose income is less than $1102/month ($1486/month for couples) to file for the 2016 Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate (PTC 104). December 31, 2019 is the deadline for filing the 2017 rebate. Income must be less than $1134/mo ($1528/month for couples). Applications for 2018 rebate will be available after January 1, 2019. Average rebate is about $250. For more information or to get copies of the forms, call 303-333-3482.
Volunteers from the Colorado Gerontological Society will be delivering baskets to low income seniors who are in need and will be alone for the holidays. Deliveries will take place in the Denver Metro Area on Saturday, December 22, 2018 from 10:00 am to noon. Individuals must be home to receive the basket, otherwise it will not be delivered. Food for preparing a holiday meal will be delivered to individuals who are living alone, who do not have any relatives or friends with whom they will be spending any time during the holidays, and who are low income. If you meet this criteria, please return the Holiday Basket application. Applying does not guarantee that you will be selected to receive a basket.

1. Do you live
   □ alone □ with spouse □ with family □ with friends or a roommate
2. Who lives in your home?
   □ Self □ Self & Spouse □ Self & Children □ Self & Grandchildren □ Self, Children, & Grandchildren □ Self & Friend(s)
3. Do you live in
   □ apartment □ private home □ boarding home or an assisted living facility □ townhouse/condo □ trailer
4. What is the total monthly income for all persons in the household?
   □ less than $788 □ between $788/mo and $1,032/mo □ between $1,032/mo and $1,234/mo
   □ between $1,235/mo and $1,634/mo □ more than $1,634/mo
5. What is your race/ethnicity? Please check all that apply:
   □ Black/African-American □ Asian/Pacific Islander □ Native American/Alaskan □ White □ Hispanic/Latino □ Other
6. Have you traditionally celebrated the holidays with a special meal?
   □ Yes □ Not recently □ No, just another day
7. Will you be having a holiday dinner
   □ alone □ with spouse □ with family □ with friends/roommate
8. Will you receive visitors during the holidays? (Check all that apply)
   □ No, I'll be alone □ Yes, I will be with my spouse □ Yes, I will be with family □ Yes, with friends/roommate
9. Do you live in an apartment building?
   □ Yes, I live in an apartment building □ No, I do not live in an apartment building
   8a. If yes, will you be having a holiday dinner with residents who live in your building?
      □ Yes, I will be having dinner with other residents. □ No, I will not be having dinner with other residents.
10. Do you usually
    □ cook dinner for yourself □ go out to eat dinner □ have your spouse or family cook dinner for you
    □ have a caregiver cook dinner for you □ eat in the dining room in your building
11. Can you cook a holiday dinner, or have a caregiver cook for you?
    □ Yes □ No
12. Do you have children or other family living in the Denver area?
    □ Yes □ No
13. Will you have family or friends visiting over the holidays?
    □ Yes □ No
14. Do you usually receive
    - A Basket of Joy from Volunteers of America □ Yes □ No
    - A prepared holiday meal from family or friends □ Yes □ No
    - A holiday meal from another agency □ Yes □ No
15. Do you have (please check all that apply)
    □ a phone □ voice mail □ call waiting □ call forwarding □ cell phone □ cell phone and house phone
16. Did you apply for a LEAP payment to help pay for utilities □ Yes □ No □ Not eligible
17. Of the list below, indicate which of the following three problems are the most difficult for you?
    □ Increasing rent □ Increasing taxes □ Food costs □ Low cost housing
    □ Fear of assault □ Safety on the streets □ Racism □ Theft from seniors
    □ Fraud □ More food stamps □ Paying bills □ High cost of gas and electricity
    □ Graffiti and trash □ Prescription drugs □ Cost of health care □ Cost of health Insurance
    □ More transportation □ More RTD stops □ More Access-a-Ride transportation
    □ Better response from police □ More entertainment for seniors
    □ Other

NAME ____________________________________________________________

ADDRESS _______________________________________________________

APT # ____________________________ CITY/STATE ____________________________ ZIP ________________

PHONE or MESSAGE PHONE ____________________________ Date of Birth ________________ Age ______

Emergency Contact ____________________________________________ Emergency Phone ____________________________

Please Return this form by 11/15/2018 to:
COLORADO GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY
1330 LEYDEN ST. #148, DENVER CO 80220 · 303-333-3482 or 303-333-9112 (fax) or cogs@senioranswers.org
Homestead exemption—what’s next?

Older adults who want to continue to be involved and work on the Senior Homestead Exemption can participate in the following ways:

1. Talk to elected officials and share your concerns.
2. Attend meetings of candidates who are running for governor, state senate and/or state representative and ask the candidate if they support keeping the homestead exemption for seniors.
3. Talk to neighbors and friends and ask them to attend meetings and talk to candidates running for office.
4. Contact the local newspaper and ask them to run an article or write an editorial for the newspaper. TELL YOUR STORY.
5. Contact the local radio and/or television station and ask them to do a story. TELL YOUR STORY.
6. Complete and return the survey below so we can collect data to reflect the needs of seniors to legislators.
7. If you returned the survey indicating you are interested in being involved, we have your name and will contact you as we need your assistance, most likely after January 1, 2019.

Homestead Exemption Survey

1. In what county do you live? _________________________
2. What is your age? ___ < 55 ___ 56-60 ___ 61-65 ___ 66-70 ___ 71-75 ___ 76-80 ___ 81-85 ___ 85+
3. Do you own the home you currently reside in? ___ Yes ___ No
4. Do you receive the Senior Property Tax Exemption? ___ Yes ___ No
5. If yes, do you know approximately how much money you saved for the 2017 taxes paid in 2018?
   ___ Do not know ___ $100-$200 ___ $201-$300 ___ $301-$400 ___ $401-$500 ___ $501-$600 ___ $600+
6. How important to you is keeping the exemption as currently structured?
   ___ Not Important ___ Somewhat Important ___ Neutral ___ Quite Important ___ Very Important
7. Do you want to keep the Homestead Exemption as is? ___ Yes ___ No
8. If the Homestead Exemption has to be changed, please check how you would like to see the program change?
   ___ Eliminate the Homestead Exemption ___ Redirect money to education and transportation
   ___ Means testing/income cap ___ Redirect money to other senior services ___ Increase senior renter assistance
   ___ Eliminate the 10-year residency requirement ___ Other, please fill-in ____________________________
9. Currently, the exempted property tax cap is set at 50% of the first $200,000 in market value. Do you support changing this exempted property value? Keep in mind, reducing the cap may reduce the benefit and increasing the cap may increase the benefit. ___ Yes or ___ No
10. If so, what value would you suggest?
    ___ $50,000 ___ $100,000 ___ $150,000 ___ $250,000 ___ $350,000 ___ $450,000 ___ $550,000+

NAME (optional) _____________________________________________________   Telephone __________________________
Address ____________________________________________________  City _____________________________ Zip _________________
Email ________________________________________________________________________________________________________

RETURN BY NOVEMBER 1, 2018 TO:
Colorado Gerontological Society, 1330 Leyden St, #148, Denver CO 80220 • 303-333-3482 • fax 303-333-9112 • cogs@senioranswers.org