

2018 – 2019 Medicare Open Enrollment Period (OEP) Timeline

2018	
Early September	Social Security checks if some Extra Help (Low-Income Subsidy) clients can still qualify. They must reply or they'll lose their coverage at the end of 2018.
Late September	CMS mails the <i>Medicare & You</i> handbook.
September 30	Current plan members must receive Annual Notice of Change (ANOC)
October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations may start marketing plans for 2019. • TENTATIVE date Medicare posts 2019 plan and drug benefit data on the Medicare Plan Finder.
October 2	People whose 2018 plan is leaving the Medicare program in 2019 must get notices from plans.
Early October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TENTATIVE timeframe for SHIBA to publish paper copies of 2019 Part D plan lists. • TENTATIVE timeframe for SHIBA to post online Medicare Advantage plan lists for sale in Washington state by county.
October 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last date employer/union and other group health plans must tell enrollees whether or not their drug coverage is creditable. • 2018 Annual OEP starts.
December 7	2018 Annual OEP ends.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Security Benefit Rate Change Notice- Tells people about benefit changes and Medicare premiums due to cost of living increases, etc.
2019	
January 1	Changes made during OEP take effect.
January 1 – March 31	<p>NEW! Medicare Advantage OEP (must be in MA plan effective Jan. 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-time option to change from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MAPD to MAPD ○ MAPD to Original Medicare and a Part D plan ○ MA Only plan to MA Only plan ○ MA Only plan to Original Medicare

Medicare enrollment periods that occur annually

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
-GEP -January 1 – March 31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part A (if not free*) • Part B -For people who missed their IEP – Coverage starts July 1			-SEP for people who enrolled in Medicare A/B during GEP -April 1 – June 30 -Join: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part D Plan • MA Only Plan • MA –PD Plan -All coverage begins July 1							-OEP for Medicare Advantage and prescription drug plans -October 15 – December 7 -Join, drop switch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part D Plan • MA Only Plan • MA – PD Plan -Coverage begins January 1		
-(NEW in 2019) -MA Open Enrollment Period -January 1 – March 31 -Must be in MA Plan effective Jan. 1 -One-time option to change from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAPD to MAPD • MAPD to Original Medicare and a Part D plan • MA Only plan to MA Only plan • MA Only plan to Original Medicare 												
GEP = General Enrollment Period IEP = Initial Enrollment Period OEP = Open Enrollment Period SEP = Special Enrollment Period (This shows one of <i>many</i> SEPs)							MA = Medicare Advantage MA-PD = Medicare Advantage with Prescription Drug coverage * If Medicare A is free, can enroll during IEP and any month afterward					