

SHIBA News Flashes

Newsletter published by Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) Regional Training Consultants, for time-sensitive health insurance news. Please pass this information on to others!

CMS reinstates SilverScript plans as of Jan. 1, 2014: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it has stopped suppressing the SilverScript Part D plans, effective Jan. 1, 2014. They now appear on the Medicare Plan Finder. We've revised the list of plans to include SilverScript: <http://www.insurance.wa.gov/your-insurance/medicare/part-d/documents/medicare-part-d-standalone-plan.pdf> *Please note:* LIS recipients will not be automatically enrolled into the benchmark SilverScript Basic plan until further notice.

Annual Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period reminder: From Jan. 1 to Feb. 14, if current Medicare Advantage enrollees are not satisfied with their Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, they can disenroll and return to Original Medicare and choose a stand-alone Part D plan.

Health Care Authority temporarily modifies the Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) recertification/review process: The Health Care Authority will continue Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) coverage for those clients it notified that their annual reviews were due by Dec. 31, but who hadn't yet been able to complete their review through www.wahealthplanfinder.org. Washington Apple Health is the new name for **all** Washington Medicaid coverage, including the Aged, Blind, & Disabled program (ABD).

Important changes to Medicare coverage in 2014: People with Medicare who get home health benefits or who are in need of skilled care should be aware of two new updates from Medicare:

1. As of Nov. 19, CMS requires additional and stricter criteria for meeting the definition of "homebound" status for home health care coverage. To learn more, go to: <http://cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R172BP.pdf>.
2. In upholding the recent *Jimmo vs. Sebelius* settlement, CMS revised its policy manual and clarifies that a person cannot be denied skilled care coverage solely because his/her condition may not improve or has "plateaued." For more information, go to: <http://cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM8458.pdf>.

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CMS issues new Medicaid rule about older Americans and people with disabilities: On Jan. 10, CMS issued a new rule that Medicaid programs must support home and community-based settings that serve as an alternative to institutional care, and must take into account the quality of individuals' experiences. The rule also includes a transitional period for states to ensure their programs meet these new requirements. For more information about the new rule, go to: http://ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2014-00487_PI.pdf

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