

Medicare Is Changing For Many Minnesotans

Per federal law, changes to Medicare will be happening for many people across the country, but just not yet. Beginning in 2019, Medicare Cost Plans, a type of Medicare plan that many Minnesotans have, will end in most Minnesota counties. For many beneficiaries, it will mean they will have to change plans. Within our 14 county region the Cost Plans will continue in Mille Lacs, Kanabec, and Pine counties. [View map](#) of the counties that will continue beyond 2018.

Right now, there is nothing to do. But in September, those people with Cost Plans ending will receive a notice in the mail from their Medicare plan that will explain the changes. Then, they will have to weigh their options and make some important decisions before the end of 2018 to make sure that they have good coverage in 2019.

Here are some things to think about when deciding about changing your Medicare plan:

- Do you want to return to Original Medicare Part A and Part B?
- Do you want to purchase a Medicare supplement (Medigap) policy to go with your Original Medicare?
- Do you want to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan?
- What plan do you want for your Medicare Part D benefit?

Information about new Medicare plan options will not be available until fall of 2018. But there still will be plenty of time to learn about plan choices and to make the best decision for you. You can also connect with experts to help you weigh your options. You can call 1-800-Medicare, Minnesota's Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433, or Medicare.gov

So, relax and enjoy your summer, because you do not need to do anything about your Medicare plan now. But keep an eye out for mail from your plan and from Medicare this fall, so you can make a decision that is right for you.

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