

News Column for Use Week of 9/9/19

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River Valley Extension District

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Shop for 2020 Part D Plans

Football games, harvest and festivals are all part of Kansas life in the Fall. Before it gets any busier, call for an appointment to have a Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) Counselor review your current Medicare Part D Prescription Plan. The counselor will shop for the most economical one for 2020. A limited number of appointments are available by counselors in each of the four counties of the River Valley Extension District. They are ready to provide assistance to Medicare beneficiaries, and the service is free.

The Medicare Part D Open Enrollment will start October 15th through December 7th. Medicare beneficiaries have an opportunity to look at their current Part D Plan and shop for a cheaper 2020 Plan. This is a short period of time to shop and enroll.

It is wise to review your Medicare Part D Plan every year – looking at changes for the new year. Your current Part D Plan may delete one or more of your specific medications from the plan's formulary for the next year. Sometimes the premium doubles in cost from the previous year.

Shopping one of the available plans and comparing costs may help a Medicare beneficiary find a Part D Plan with better coverage or a lower premium in 2020. How can a person compare Plans? One of the best ways is to get on the medicare.gov website. You or a Counselor can enter your medications and find the cheapest plan that covers your prescriptions for the lowest overall costs. The goal of a SHICK Counselor is to try and save the Medicare beneficiary money. The Counselor will enroll you in the most economical plan.

How does a Medicare beneficiary get an appointment close to where they live? Call for an appointment at Belleville, Clay Center, Concordia, or Washington.

Belleville- Three Enrollment Events are scheduled at the Belleville Public Library on October 28th, November 4th and November 25th. Call the Belleville District Extension Office at 785-527-5084 for an appointment. Tell Kim Kolman, Office Professional, which date you want an appointment. Five Counselors, Judy Uphoff, Belinda Robison, Lynn Elliott, Deanna Turner, and Liz Shoemake (North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging) will assist you along with Audrey Carlson on November 4th. Or, call the Extension Office for an appointment there with Deanna on Mondays starting November 18th. Also people can call Counselors Judy Uphoff at 785-527-0118 or Belinda Robison and leave a message at 785-527-3199 for appointments.

Clay Center- Four Enrollment Events are scheduled October 31st, November 1st, 21st and 22nd at the Clay Center Extension Office. Call the Office at 785-632-5335 and talk to Frieda Knitter, Office Professional, to schedule an appointment. Three to four Counselors including two from the Area Agency on Aging will be happy to help you at these Enrollment Events. Also, Jim Beck counsels on Mondays, Nola Unruh counsels on Tuesday mornings, Beverly Lang counsels on Tuesday afternoons and Thursdays, and Deanna counsels on Thursdays & Fridays at the Extension Office.

Concordia- November 12th an Enrollment Event is scheduled with three Counselors including the Area Agency on Aging in Concordia. Call the Extension Office at 785-243-8185 and talk to Office Professional, Melissa Williamson, to schedule an appointment at the Office. On Tuesdays

appointment times are available to meet with either Lynn Elliott or Deanna at the Extension Office.

Washington- Call the Extension Office at 785-325-2121 and talk to Gaye Peters, Office Professional, for Wednesday appointments with Janet Elliott or Deanna. The appointments will be at the Washington County Health Department, 104 E. 2nd Street across the street (north) from the Courthouse in Washington.

A worksheet will be mailed to you after you make an appointment. Complete the worksheet and return to the Extension Office at least one week prior to your appointment. Bring any recent letters you have received from Social Security or Medicare to your appointment and bring your Medicare card.

Call today for an appointment!

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