

News Column for Use Week of 10/21/19

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River Valley Extension District

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## **Shop for 2020 Part D Plan**

Fall is a busy time. Procrastinate no more. Call for an appointment to have a Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) Counselor review your current Medicare Part D Prescription Plan and shop for the most economical Plan 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. The service is free.

The Medicare Part D Open Enrollment started October 15<sup>th</sup> and will continue through December 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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 internet on the [medicare.gov](http://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 cheapest Plan that covers your drugs.

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 28<sup>th</sup>, November 4<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 (Area Agency on Aging) will assist you along with Audrey Carlson November 4<sup>th</sup>. Or, call the Extension Office for an appointment there with Deanna on Mondays starting November 18<sup>th</sup>.

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 31<sup>st</sup>, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Clay Center Extension Office. Call the Office at 785-632-5335 and talk to Frieda Knitter, Office Professional, to schedule an appointment. Deanna Turner and two Area Agency on Aging Counselors will be counseling these days, plus Beverly Lang on October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 21<sup>st</sup>. Also, Jim Beck counsels on Mondays, Nola Unruh counsels on Tuesday mornings, Beverly Lang counsels on Tuesday afternoons and Thursdays, and Deanna counsel on Thursdays & Fridays at the Extension Office.

**Concordia-** November 12<sup>th</sup>, 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. Most Tuesday

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.

A worksheet will be mailed to you after you make an appointment. Complete the worksheet and return to the Extension Office at least a 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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