

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Division of Personnel Announces New Medicare Advantage Plan for Government Retirees 65 and Older

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The Division of Personnel has announced that beginning January 1, 2021, more than 6,000 retirees and their dependents age 65 and older will benefit from the new Medicare Advantage Plan which includes \$0 co-pay for all doctor services, \$0 deductible and no additional cost in premiums for Retirees 65 years and older on Plan F.

The plan, according to Personnel, offers a \$500 allowance for vision and hearing aid exams, free virtual consultations with nurses 24/7 and free gym access. The Part D Prescription drug coverage co-payments in place today will remain the same and gift card rewards for house calls – such as a virtual preventative check-up will be available.

Personnel Director Dayna Clendinen described the announcement as "monumental" for the territory, owing to the efforts of the Bryan administration, UnitedHealth Care, Personnel and the Government Employees Service Commission (GESC) board. "Additionally, we could not have done it without our partners at VI Equicare, the Schneider Regional Medical Center and the Gov. Juan Luis Hospital," she said.

Ms. Clendinen said the plan has a 98 percent satisfaction rate and the freedom of nationwide access for care at in-network costs, to include top doctors and specialists. "It's only one card for all your medical needs. No confusion," she said.

To learn more about the Medicare Advantage Plan, UnitedHealth Care will host virtual webinars from October 19-23 between 10 am -12 noon and again from 2 pm -4 pm. If you cannot join the webinar by a web browser, you can dial in by phone to listen and ask questions, Personnel said. UnitedHealthcare began mailing out notifications via postal mail with instructions on accessing the webinar. If you do not receive communication by October 12, contact the Division of Personnel to ensure that your mailing address is current.

If you decide not to participate in the Government Insurance Advantage Plan for retirees 65 and older, you have until November 10 to opt-out of the program by contacting the Division of Personnel's Group Health Insurance office by phone at (340) 774-8588 or (340) 718-8588.