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Office of the Lieutenant Governor Reminds Residents of Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Period

Community Center / **Published On October 10, 2021 07:16 AM /**

Staff Consortium **October 10, 2021**

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The Office of the Lieutenant Governor is advising all Medicare beneficiaries and persons newly eligible for Medicare that the open enrollment period for Medicare Part D is October 15, to December 7, 2021. Medicare beneficiaries are able to join or drop their prescription drug plan by the scheduled December deadline, according to the release.

Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (Part D) offers prescription drug coverage to all Medicare beneficiaries, with some exceptions. Beneficiaries with employer or union health coverage do not need to enroll in a prescription drug plan. Joining the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan may result in a loss of union or employer health coverage.

To receive Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare beneficiaries are required to join a plan provided by a private insurance company approved by Medicare. Each year the plan sets the cost and determines which prescription drugs are covered.

In preparation for open enrollment, beneficiaries are encouraged to review their current Medicare coverage to ensure that the plan adequately meets their needs in terms of cost, coverage and convenience. Individuals satisfied with their current plan do not have to re-enroll. Persons not participating in this year's open enrollment period will have to wait until next year to make any changes to their coverage.

For the safety of beneficiaries during the Covid-19 pandemic, open enrollment sessions will not be held in person. Beneficiaries may contact the Virgin Islands State Health Insurance Assistance Program (VI SHIP) Medicare office in the St. Thomas/St. John District at 340-774-2991, extension 4507 or in the St. Croix District at 340-778-6311, extension 3110 to schedule a telephone appointment. For additional information, beneficiaries may visit www.medicare.gov.