

# New to Medicare Checklist:

## 6 Things to Do When You Get Medicare

### **1. Fill out an Initial Enrollment Questionnaire**

Make sure your medical bills are paid correctly and on time by filling out this questionnaire and sending it to Medicare, or complete it over the phone or by mail.

The Initial Enrollment Questionnaire (IEQ) should come in the mail about 3 months before your Medicare coverage starts. The questionnaire asks about other health insurance you have that might pay before Medicare does, like group health coverage from your or a family member's employer, liability insurance, or workers' compensation.

How to submit the Initial Enrollment Questionnaire (IEQ):

- ✓ Complete the questionnaire online at MyMedicare.gov . or
- ✓ Mail back the paper copy you got in the mail. or
- ✓ Complete the questionnaire over the phone by calling the Coordination of Benefits Contractor at 1-800-999-1118. TTY users should call 1-800-318-8782.

### **2. Fill out an Authorization Form**

Medicare can't give personal health information about you to anyone unless you give permission in writing first. If you want friends or family to be able to call 1-800-MEDICARE on your behalf, you should let Medicare know in writing now in case you're unable to do it later. You can give your permission in several ways:

- ✓ Fill out and submit an e-Authorization Form online.
- ✓ Download and complete a .PDF version of the Standard Authorization form. Mail the completed, signed form to Medicare BCC, Written Authorization Department, P.O. Box 1270, Lawrence, KS 66044.
- ✓ Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, and ask for the Standard Authorization form to complete and mail in. Or, the CSR can help you complete the form over the phone, then mail the form to you to sign and return.

### **3. Make a "Welcome to Medicare" Physical Exam Appointment**

This free, one-time comprehensive exam is offered during the first 12 months you have Medicare.

The free "Welcome to Medicare" physical exam puts you in control of your health and your Medicare from the start. Offered during the first 12 months you have Medicare, this exam lets you and your doctor discuss steps to prevent disease, improve your health, and help you stay well. The exam is completely covered by Medicare. There is no co-pay or deductible. Learn how it can benefit you.

#### **4. Sign up for MyMedicare.gov**

MyMedicare.gov is a secure online service where you can access your personal Medicare information 24 hours a day, every day. Here's what you can do with MyMedicare.gov:

- ✓ Complete your Initial Enrollment Questionnaire (IEQ)
- ✓ Track your health care claims
- ✓ Order a Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or replacement Medicare card
- ✓ Check your Part B deductible status
- ✓ View your eligibility information
- ✓ Track your preventive services
- ✓ Find information about your Medicare health or prescription drug plan, or search for a new one
- ✓ Keep your Medicare information in one convenient place
- ✓ Sign up to get the "Medicare & You" handbook electronically

#### **5. Choose and Join a Medicare Drug Plan (Part D)**

If you're new to Medicare, you have 7 months to join a Medicare drug plan. If you want Medicare prescription drug coverage, now is the time to join a Medicare drug plan. You can join, switch, or drop a Medicare drug plan at these times:

- ✓ When you first become eligible for Medicare.
- ✓ Between October 15 - December 7, 2011
- ✓ This 7 month period starts 3 months before you become eligible, includes the month you become eligible, and ends 3 months after you become eligible. This is true whether you're eligible for Medicare because of your age or a disability.
- ✓ If you're eligible for Medicare because of a disability, you'll have another chance to join a Medicare drug plan when you turn age 65.

Find Medicare drug plans in your area. Once you choose a Medicare drug plan, you may be able to join by completing a paper application, calling the plan, or joining online.

*\*NOTE: Wisconsin has a prescription drug plan available to beneficiaries age 65 and over called Senior Care. A person can have both Medicare Part D and Senior Care. It is sometimes helpful, but not necessarily. It depends upon your situation, the number, type and cost of medications you are taking.*

#### **6. Download a Copy of "Your Medicare Benefits" [CMS suggestion]**

Medicare's official "Your Medicare Benefits" publication explains the rules about which health care services and supplies Medicare covers.

"I have included a copy of the CMS web page that describes this publication. If you do not have a computer and printer, or prefer not to print the 60 page booklet yourself, you can call 1-800-633-4227 (1-800-Medicare) and request a copy be mailed to you. " (per Donna Bryant)