

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MEDIA CONTACT

Beth Reiss

Communications Director

[beth.reiss@mid.ms.gov](mailto:beth.reiss@mid.ms.gov)

601-359-2403

### Medicare Open Enrollment Starts This Week

*JACKSON, Miss.* – The open enrollment period for Medicare runs from October 15 through December 7 each year. During this time, you may change your Medicare health or prescription coverage for the upcoming year. While the Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) does not regulate Medicare, MID is available to answer questions if you have concerns or are confused by the open enrollment process.

“Many carriers are updating their plans or leaving certain areas due to rising costs and new federal rules. If your plan is affected, don’t worry—you’ll be eligible for a special enrollment period to choose a new plan that works for you. Mississippi has many options for Medicare with nearly 100 providers in the market,” said Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney.

More information on choosing the right plan for you is available on our website, <https://www.mid.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/MedigapPolicy.pdf>

**Don’t be scammed.** Be cautious when contacted about private Medicare coverage.

- Only work with state-licensed agents— you can verify this information with the Mississippi Insurance Department by calling 601-359-2012.
  - To find a complete list of Medicare agents or brokers near you, you can go to [Medicaresupp.org](https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-supply), a free resource. From there, enter your ZIP code to see a comprehensive list.
- No unsolicited contact (door-to-door, cold calls, or approaching in public).
- Sales visits require an appointment and prior agreement on the product type; agents cannot sell other products.
- Agents cannot sell non-health insurance products during Medicare presentations.
- Sales are prohibited in healthcare settings, educational events, or via free meals at promotions.
- Never share personal info (Social Security Number, bank, or credit card) with unverified agents; payment should be by bill, not online. Only provide personal info to licensed agents once verified for enrollment and billing.

#### Additional resources.

- Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov)
- Get free, personalized counseling from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). The Mississippi number is 1-844-822-4622
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

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