

Medigap changes take effect June 1

On June 1, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) eliminates some plan options and introduces two new ones, Plans M and N. Also, all plans will see changes to core benefits for all Medigap plans. These changes affect all Medigap products offered by the Blues: MyBlue MedigapSM plans (administered by Blue Care Network) and Legacy Medigap plans (administered by BCBSM). Rates for existing plans will remain the same.

What's new on June 1?

- Some Medigap plans will go away: Plans E, H, I and J, including Plan J's high deductible option, will be eliminated.
- New plan options: Plans M and N will be added to the menu of Medigap standard plans
- A new hospice benefit that pays for hospice-related drugs (\$5 copay) and respite care (5% coinsurance)
- Eliminates outdated preventive care and at-home recovery benefits.
- Part B Excess Charges Benefit is upgraded to 100% for Plan G.
- Private carriers may add new or innovative benefits to the standard plans, such as eyewear or hearing aids.

Marketing timeline

The law allows insurers to begin marketing these plans after May 31. The Blues will begin marketing both MyBlue Medigap and Legacy Medigap plans on June 1. The law does not allow marketing or enrollment in the new plans prior to June 1.

Current enrollment application forms will not be accepted after May 31. Use the new application forms for MyBlue Medigap and Legacy Medigap plans for coverage effective dates of June 1 or beyond. Note that applicants in MyBlue Medigap Plans M or N will have coverage effective dates not earlier than July 1.

Updated MyBlue Medigap (form number CB10833) and Legacy Medigap (form number CB9784) marketing materials will be available in print and online at www.bcbsm.com/mybluemedicare beginning June 1.

MyBlue Medigap changes

On June 1, MyBlue Medigap will add new plans M and N to its current menu of Plans A, C and F. Benefit changes described above will become part of the core benefits for these plans.

New enrollees with effective dates of June 1, 2010, and beyond will be enrolled in the new plans. For current members of MyBlue Medigap plans A, C or F, the new benefits will automatically take effect beginning June 1. Existing members will not need to re-enroll and will be notified of the benefit changes via a message on their premium invoice. Plans M and N will be rated on the same criteria as other MyBlue Medigap plans. Premium rates for Plans A, C and F will remain the same.

Current MyBlue Medigap members interested in switching plans may do so once per year on the date they originally enrolled in MyBlue Medigap.

Information, including the enrollment brochure and application form, can also be found on the Web at www.bcbsm.com/mybluemedicare beginning June 1.

Legacy Medigap changes

Legacy Medigap will keep Plans A and C, but eliminate the "Medigap Blue" option after May 31. Members enrolled in the Medigap Blue option will be allowed to continue their membership in that plan, but no new members will be added after May 31. Individuals who attempt to enroll in Medigap Blue after May 31 will be notified (by letter or phone call) that Medigap Blue is no longer available.

Benefit changes described above will automatically become part of the core benefits for the remaining plans.
Premium rates for Plans A and C will not change.

Information, including the enrollment brochure and application form, can also be found on the Web at www.bcbsm.com/mybluemedicare beginning June 1. Legacy Medigap is not a commissionable sale.

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