

Explaining the Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period

January 1-February 14, 2017

Beginning on January 1, 2017, Medicare will initiate the Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period (MADP). MADP runs from January 1-February 14, 2017. It is important for agents and members to understand that the purpose of the MADP is to give Medicare Advantage members an opportunity to return to original Medicare. It is not an additional enrollment period nor is it an opportunity for Medicare Advantage members to switch to different MA plans.


During MADP:

- People enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan (MA-PD) may disenroll from the MA-PD and will have the opportunity to enroll in a standalone Prescription Drug Plan (PDP). **VERY IMPORTANT:** MA-PD members who enroll in a standalone PDP during this period will be automatically disenrolled from their current MA-PD and will not have the option of enrolling in another Medicare Advantage Plan.
- Members who are in a Medicare Advantage only plan may request disenrollment from the MA plan and will then receive a Special Election Period (SEP) to enroll in a PDP standalone plan. The SEP is available from the time the disenrollment request is made until the member enrolls in a PDP or after February 14, whichever comes first
- Members who have both a standalone MA and a standalone PDP may disenroll from the MA plan, but may not make a change to their current standalone PDP.
- Members who have a standalone PDP, but are not enrolled in a MA plan may not make any change to their current PDP plan and may not enroll in an MA plan.
- People with Medicare who are not enrolled in any Part C Medicare Advantage plan have no options under MADP to make any change in their Medicare coverage.

Members who use the MADP to disenroll from their Medicare Advantage plans will have their disenrollment effective on the first day of the month following their disenrollment request. Those disenrolling from Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO or Network PFFS, must continue to use network providers until their disenrollment takes effect. Otherwise neither Medicare nor their MA plan will cover out-of-network expenses, other than under the terms of their existing MA plan. Those leaving MA can choose to apply for a Medicare Supplement policy providing they qualify under the terms of the policy they wish to purchase.



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