

THE MEDICARE PLAYBOOK™ — MODULE 5

The Annual Medicare Review Checklist

Run this every October.
 Before the window closes.

Medicare Open Enrollment runs October 15 – December 7 every year. This is your annual window to switch plans, fix problems, and make sure your coverage still fits your life. Run through these 10 questions before the window closes.

YOUR ANNUAL REVIEW — 10 QUESTIONS

For each question, mark: Good — no change needed. Look Closer — something may have changed. Problem — action needed this Open Enrollment.

- 1** Are all my current medications still covered by my plan — and on the same tier as last year?
 If a drug moved to a higher tier or was dropped, you may be overpaying. Check the plan's upcoming formulary.

Good
 Look Closer
 Problem
- 2** Are all my current doctors still in-network? (Medicare Advantage clients only)
 Plans can change networks. Verify your primary care doctor, specialists, and any facility you use.

Good
 Look Closer
 Problem
- 3** Did my plan send an Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) letter showing changes? Did I read it?
 Plans are required to mail this in September. It lists every change to your plan for next year.

Good
 Look Closer
 Problem
- 4** Has my monthly premium gone up significantly compared to other comparable plans?
 If yes, compare options. The same coverage from a different carrier might cost less.

Good
 Look Closer
 Problem
- 5** Did my income change significantly this year — up or down?
 A big income change this year could affect your IRMAA status in two years. Also check if you moved out of IRMAA territory.

Good
 Look Closer
 Problem
- 6** Has my health changed? Am I using healthcare differently than when I picked this plan?
 A new diagnosis, ongoing specialist visits, or new medications may mean a different plan type fits better.

Good
 Look Closer
 Problem
- 7** Do I still travel frequently? Does my plan cover me when I'm away from home?
 Medicare Advantage covers emergencies nationally, but routine care is network-limited. Medigap covers anywhere.

Good
 Look Closer
 Problem
- 8** Did the plan reduce or eliminate any benefits I was using — dental, vision, gym membership?
 Advantage plans can change extra benefits year to year. If you were using them, check if they're still there.

Good
 Look Closer
 Problem
- 9** Am I taking any new prescriptions I wasn't on when I first enrolled?
 Add new medications to your Plan Finder comparison. A plan that fit last year's drug list may not fit this year's.

Good
 Look Closer
 Problem
- 10** Am I paying for benefits I never actually use?
 If you picked a plan for its dental coverage and haven't used a dentist in two years, a lower-premium plan might fit better.

Good
 Look Closer
 Problem

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September	Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) letters arrive from your plan. READ THIS.
Oct 15 – Dec 7	Annual Open Enrollment. Switch Advantage plans, switch Part D plans, or return to Original Medicare.
January 1	Open Enrollment changes take effect. New plan, new card, new year.
Jan 1 – Mar 31	Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment. Switch Advantage plans or return to Original Medicare (if currently on Advantage).

Something flagged? Don't wait until January to wish you had acted. Our Medicare review is free. (813) 406-0480 •

protectivewealthadvisors.com/medicare-planning