

Agent Alert



May 8, 2020

Special enrollment period for beneficiaries affected by COVID-19

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that the special enrollment period (SEP) for individuals affected by a FEMA-declared weather related emergency or major disaster is applicable for beneficiaries who were eligible for, but unable to make, an election because they were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes both enrollment and disenrollment elections.

Individuals are considered “affected” and eligible for this SEP if they:

- Reside, or resided at the start of the incident period, in an area for which FEMA has declared an emergency or a major disaster and has designated affected counties as being eligible to apply for individual or public level assistance
- Had another valid election period at the time of the incident period; and
- Did not make an election during that other valid election period.

The SEP is available until end of July and eligible beneficiaries get one opportunity to make that missed election with this SEP. Beneficiaries are not expected to provide proof that they were affected by the pandemic-related emergency.

To use this enrollment period, see “Other reasons” on the paper or online enrollment form and select the option that reads, “I was affected by a weather-related or major disaster (as declared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). One of the other statements here applied to me, but I was unable to make my enrollment because of the natural disaster.”

Questions? Call a Broker Help Desk

If you have questions, want to enroll an applicant by phone or help a member make a change, please contact the appropriate agent help line:

- MedicareBlue Rx pre-enrollment toll free at **1-866-464-3919**
- MedicareBlue Rx post-enrollment toll free at **1-866-849-2498**

Coverage is available to residents of the service area or members of an employer or union group and separately issued by one of the following plans: Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska,* Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota,* Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota,* and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming.*

*Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.