

Once the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period is over, you are committed to your Medicare plan for the next 12 months... right?

Not necessarily.

Changes you make to your Medicare Advantage Part C plans or Medicare Part D prescription plans during the Annual Enrollment Period, which begins October 15th and ends December 7th, are effective January 1st of the upcoming year.

However, you have at least one more chance to make a change to your Medicare Advantage Part C plan, and that is during the Medicare Open Enrollment Period.

The Medicare Open Enrollment Period, or OEP, begins January 1st and ends March 31st.

During the OEP, you get one more chance to update your Medicare Advantage plan. If you change your plan in January, it is effective February 1st; if you change your plan in February, the change is effective March 1st; and if you change your plan in March, the change is effective April 1st.

After April 1st, you will have to keep your Medicare Advantage Part C plan for the remainder of the year, unless you qualify for a Special Election Period, or SEP, such as having low-income status, moving out of the service area for your current plan, having access to a Medicare 5-star plan, or some other SEP.

Unlike the Autumn Annual Enrollment Period, where you can make as many changes to your plans as you want and the final selection is what becomes effective, you can only make a single change during the Open Enrollment Period.

During the OEP, you can also dis-enroll from Medicare Advantage Part C and return to Original Medicare and have the option to enroll in a stand-alone Part D prescription drug plan, and possibly a Medigap plan.

A few things you cannot do during the OEP is simply update a stand-alone Part D prescription drug plan to a different Part D plan or enroll in a Medicare Advantage Part C plan for the first time.

And while the Annual Enrollment Period in the Fall is heavily advertised, the Open Enrollment Period is not.

What does this all mean for you? If you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Part C plan after the New Year and you feel your coverage is not suiting your needs, you have until March 31st to make a plan change.

If you have questions about the various Medicare enrollment periods or would like help evaluating the various plan options available to you, please contact me (information below).

<https://www.medicareinteractive.org/get-answers/medicare-health-coverage-options/changing-medicare-coverage/how-to-switch-medicare-advantage-plans-or-switch-from-medicare-advantage-to-original-medicare>

If you have additional questions or would like help evaluating the various plan options available to you, book a time that's convenient for you on my calendar below.

<https://calendly.com/johnsalois>