

Cherokee Regional Medical Center
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PRESS RELEASE

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CHEROKEE COUNTY RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN NON-RENEWALS

Over 250 Cherokee county residents have been notified that their United Healthcare Medicare Advantage plans will not be offered for renewal in 2014. Cherokee Regional Medical Center and the state of Iowa's Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) will be offering two programs to explain the options available to those affected. The program will be offered Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 2 p.m. and repeated Thursday, October 23 at 10 a.m. at the Conference Room at Cherokee Regional Medical Center. Please register for the program by calling 712-225-3368, Extension 200.

Each year Medicare Advantage plans decide whether to sign a contract with Medicare. Some plans make business decisions to leave Medicare altogether or stop offering plans in certain areas. Plans had to notify members by October 2, 2014 if they will not be renewing their contract with Medicare.

What are your options if you received a non-renewal letter from United Healthcare? You have two choices-- join a new Medicare Advantage plan or return to Original Medicare. Your current coverage will end on December 31, 2014. You can choose another Medicare Advantage plan or change to Original Medicare between October 15, 2014 and February 28, 2015. Making a decision by **December 31, 2014** assures you have coverage that best meets your needs January 1. You are still in the Medicare program no matter what you choose.

At the programs on October 22 and 23 the options for Medicare Advantage plans in Cherokee county will be discussed, as will the Medicare supplement and Medicare Part D drug plans available to those interested in returning to Original Medicare. In addition, you will be able to sign up for an appointment with a SHIIP counselor for one-to-one assistance comparing plans.

For more information call SHIIP, a service of the State of Iowa Insurance Division, at 1-800-351-4664 (TTY 1-800-735-2942). SHIIP's services are free, confidential and objective. They do not promote or sell any insurance products.