



MINNESOTA

SENIOR LINKAGE LINE

December 3, 2021

Medicare Open Enrollment advertising

Recently, there has been a huge increase in TV and radio ads promoting Medicare Advantage plans. Many of these are promoted by celebrities and promise a number of things that are not typically available in Minnesota, which can be confusing. Here are some things to be aware of before you call any of these companies.

1. In Minnesota, very few Medicare Advantage plans cover any of the additional benefits these ads mention - hearing aids, dental care, vision care, transportation, pharmacy discounts for supplies, etc.
2. Before making any decision to enroll in any of these products, make sure your health care providers participate and that your drugs will be covered by the plan.
3. These ads refer to additional dollars that will be added to your Social Security check. But insurance companies do not determine eligibility for these programs. This savings is actually based on a person's eligibility for a Medicare Savings Program, which you must apply for through your county social services office. To qualify, income guidelines must be met.
4. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. To get free, unbiased help reviewing your options, call the Senior LinkAge Line at 800-333-2433 Monday - Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The [Senior LinkAge Line](#)[®] is the federally designated State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for Minnesota. If you have Questions about Medicare, call the Senior LinkAge Line at 800-333-2433 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.