

COVID-19 Relief for Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D Rx Plans

On May 5, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released additional guidance on using a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for select Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D beneficiaries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This SEP applies only to beneficiaries who were eligible for – but unable to make – an election because they were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and meet the terms of the SEP criteria listed below:

- 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.

In addition, the SEP is available to those individuals who do not live in the affected areas but rely on help making health care decisions from friends or family members who live in the affected areas.

This includes both enrollment and disenrollment elections, and it is available from March 1, 2020 through July 1, 2020.

If an impacted, eligible beneficiary qualifies for an SEP, the beneficiary will be given one opportunity to make that missed election as a result of this SEP. In addition, beneficiaries will not be expected to provide proof that they were affected by the pandemic-related emergency.

When selecting an SEP, please use the weather related, emergency disaster SEP on the Attestation of Eligibility.