

Planning Your Retirement

Understanding Medicare And Medicare Supplement: Simple Steps To Help You Consider Your Options

(NAPSA)—Retirement knocking on your door? Before you open it, make sure you have the proper plans in place, especially when it comes to health care.

If you're approaching retirement, health care is sure to be one of your top concerns. With medical costs skyrocketing, it's essential for most people to have some sort of health care coverage—and for millions of Americans age 65 and older, Medicare will provide that coverage. However, even with Medicare, there's a potential for high out-of-pocket costs. That's why many Medicare enrollees will also choose a Medicare supplement insurance policy.

Medicare supplement insurance is designed to work hand-in-hand with Medicare coverage. Medicare supplement insurance helps cover expenses not covered by Medicare, including deductibles and co-insurance.

The best time to purchase a Medicare supplement insurance policy is during your open enrollment period, which lasts for six months, beginning on the first day of the month in which you turn 65 and are enrolled in Medicare Part B. During the open enrollment period, an insurance company cannot deny you coverage or place restrictions on your coverage due to your health.

Choosing the right Medicare supplement plan can often be overwhelming. "The key to making the best decision is making an informed decision," said Mutual of



Omaha first vice president Amber Rinehart.

Rinehart offers some tips to help individuals considering Medicare supplement insurance:

- **Understand Medicare.** Determine what it does and does not cover. A good resource is www.medicare.gov.
- **Choose a plan with the best fit.** Determine which Medicare supplement plan best meets your needs based on your health and financial situation.
- **Select the best company.** Check the reputation of the company, its financial stability and the level of service offered.

And, according to Rinehart, don't underestimate the value that an insurance representative can offer in your planning. Look for an agent willing to answer your questions and help you understand and determine your needs.

For more information, visit www.mutualofomaha.com.