



*Insurance Industry News to Keep You & Your Clients In the Know!*

### **Enrollment Periods: SAR SEP, MADP**

On the heels of AEP we have more... you guessed it... enrollment periods! With so many to remember, here is a reminder about what's next:

#### ***Service Area Reductions: SEP for discontinued plans***

This special enrollment period for service areas with discontinued Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug plans began December 8<sup>th</sup> and will run through February 29<sup>th</sup> of 2016. This SEP is an extension for clients in this specific situation that did not utilize the AEP period to change plans.

#### ***Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period***

Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> through February 14<sup>th</sup>, clients can disenroll from a Medicare Advantage plan and return to original Medicare with the option to purchase a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan (Part D). They can also purchase a Medicare Supplement plan in this period, however it is not guaranteed issue.

### **Medicare surcharge letters dampen holiday spirits**

There's a new Grinch stealing holiday cheer, and her name is IRMAA. That's short for Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts, which is government lingo for the higher Medicare premiums that some people must pay next year if their retirement incomes exceed a certain level. The Social Security Administration started sending letters in late November to retirees affected by next year's premium surcharges because the income on their most recent tax return (2014) topped \$85,000 if single or exceeded \$170,000 if married. [Investment News](#)

**5 Facts for Consumers about the Fee for Not Having Health Coverage** No family should live in fear that one unexpected illness or an accident could throw them into financial turmoil. All people deserve the relief that comes with knowing you can fill your prescriptions, take your children to the doctor, and get care to stay healthy when you need it. The good news is, affordable coverage through HealthCare.gov is available. After financial assistance, 7 out of 10 people can find plans with premiums of less than \$75 dollars per month. [The CMS Blog](#)

**20 Funny Jokes for a Work Holiday Party** We have all been there, when a coworker or boss says something that is hilarious ... and you have to control your inner 5-year-old from bursting out laughing. And with the holidays around the corner, the stress of the season calls for a great laughing session. So, with this in mind, we set out to find the funniest or craziest office jokes and stories on the Internet to melt that stress away. Plus, it could help polish your stand-up comedy act at your holiday party (not that we recommend this...). [LifeHealthPro](#)



*Why did the scarecrow get a raise? He was outstanding in his field!*