

Hello!!

Soon enough it will be time for our Annual Review. I am pleased to say that Eric, Ben and I have had a wonderful summer so far, and even had a chance to get a trip in!

I am grateful for the family time and some rest + relaxation because this fall will undoubtedly be the most demanding in over a decade.

I am confident that with Amber's help, and your cooperation, we will accomplish all we need to ensure each of you have optimal coverage come January 1, 2025!

Thank you for your continued trust in me, and I am looking forward to our visit!

Optimistically,  
Amanda



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## Jumpin' Jehoshaphat!

Due to a multitude of factors, such as the Inflation Reduction Act legislation and reductions in Medicare fee schedules, this year is going to bring significant benefit changes to the Medicare landscape. This is not a year to simply renew without evaluating plan specifics. While we have seen an improvement in benefits, year after year, over the last decade we can unfortunately expect a decrease in benefits for the first time. Candidly, I know I have some disappointing conversations coming up this fall, but I assure you that I will guide you through these changes, and we will arrive at the very best option for you to begin 2025.

I want to explain how I expect these changes will affect each product type (Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement and Part D only) on a general level, but your exact plan updates will be outlined in your Annual Notice of Change. I highly recommend you read it carefully.

## Medicare Advantage

While I do not expect any significant increase in monthly premiums (many will still be \$0) I do expect an increase to some copays, including RX copays. We do need to prepare for a reduction in benefits like eyewear allowances, OTC quarterly benefits and changes to gym programs. Of course we love the extra benefits of Medicare Advantage, and while they are not disappearing, I want to set realistic expectations as we go into this review period.

**Note:** There are a handful of plans that are \*ending\* 1/01/2025 and we will need to take action if you are currently in one of those plans.

## Medicare Supplement

The coverage specifics will not change for Medicare Supplement, but I expect a premium increase in line with those we typically see. In 2024, the most affordable Medicare Supplement plans are the AARP/UHC plans, but we will want to check for any other plans available in your coverage area to see if one may\* be less next year. As I write this there are no officially approved 2025 rates, only what has been requested, so stay tuned. Keep in mind that in NY you can change plans with no underwriting or pre-existing conditions concerns.

*"Pressure is a Privilege"*

Billy Jean King

## Stand Alone Part D



If you have a Medicare Supplement plan (OR have coverage through your previous employer that doesn't offer Part D, like my SU retirees) then you have stand-alone Part D RX coverage. The Inflation Reduction Act is going to cap total out of pocket copays at \$2,000/yr, but I expect (potentially significant) increases in Part D monthly premiums for 2025. The legislation will require all plans to allow a payment program to break the annual cost down over 12 months, rather than being expected to cover high costs all at your first fill. I think this will be helpful to many of you who have more expensive prescriptions. If you have part D only please keep an eye out for your plans' "Annual Notice of Change".

## Q: What is the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is a new program created under the Inflation Reduction Act that requires Part D plan sponsors to provide their enrollees with the option to pay out-of-pocket prescription drug costs in the form of monthly payments over the course of the plan year instead of all at once to the pharmacy. The program begins January 1, 2025. Program participants will pay \$0 to the pharmacy for covered Part D drugs, and Part D plan sponsors will then bill program participants monthly for any cost sharing they incur while in the program. Pharmacies will be paid in full by the Part D sponsor in accordance with Part D prompt payment requirements.

## New York State EPIC

I am uncertain how the new Part D changes are going to affect the NYS EPIC program, but EPIC always sends verification letters near the end of October. If you are an EPIC member, it would be really helpful to bring that letter with you. If you do not receive the letter before our meeting you can call 1-800-332-3742 to ask if they are expecting a change to your membership, and ask what your deductible is for 2025, if applicable.

## Scheduling

Amber and I are going to work tirelessly to make sure we get you all scheduled for a review. This will be my most demanding AEP, by far, and I need to ask you to please help me by scheduling your appointment as soon as possible, and by bringing thorough and accurate information about your Doctor lists, prescription lists and income information to your meeting. If you have more than five prescriptions, we will ask you to send your list to me ahead of time. If you live between Rochester and Syracuse and are able to meet at my Syracuse Office or Rochester meeting space, I would be incredibly grateful. I do know some of you will need to meet at your home as we have in the past. Amber can be reached at: (315) 876-7917 or [amber@imwithamanda.com](mailto:amber@imwithamanda.com)

### ROCHESTER DATES:

Oct: 23, 24, 25

Nov: 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20

December to be scheduled as necessary.



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