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**Subject:** Benefits Alert: Get our guide to Open Enrollment mailings & events

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**Sept. 18, 2014**

**Get our guide to Medicare mailings and key events**

Medicare open enrollment (Oct. 15-Dec. 7) is coming soon, so now's the time to learn more about what beneficiaries will receive in the mail. Our updated Guide to Mailings and Key Events in 2014/2015 is based on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) 2014-2015 mailings chart and provides detailed descriptions of the content of each mailer, hints to help clients, and a one-page, color-coded chart with links to most notices in English and Spanish. The guide also contains information about several Part D and Medicare Advantage Special Enrollment Periods.

[Download the guide](#) | [Get more Part D resources](#)

**CMS releases guidance on reassignment of LIS beneficiaries**

Last week, CMS issued two memos about Part D and Medicare Advantage (MA) plan reassignments for Low Income Subsidy (LIS) beneficiaries. The memos explain how CMS will handle the reassignment of beneficiaries whose plans will no longer have a Part D premium at or below the LIS benchmark, are non-renewing or have a service reduction area, and what notices those beneficiaries can expect to receive in the mail.

[Read the Part D plan memo](#) | [Learn about MA reassignment](#)

**New! Outreach materials for persons with disabilities**

With support from NCOA, the National Association of States United for Aging and Disability (NASUAD) has created three posters and a tip sheet to educate Medicare beneficiaries with disabilities about benefits that may help them save on Medicare costs. These materials are 508 Standards compliant and feature editable space for counselors to include contact information for consumers seeking additional information and application assistance.

[Get the materials](#)

**SNAP cost-of-living adjustments go into effect next month**

The Food and Nutrition Service recently released the fiscal year (FY) 2015 Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) maximum allotments, income eligibility standards, and deductions. Effective Oct. 1, maximum allotments will increase for 48 states, D.C., Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands. Shelter cap values and minimum standard deductions will also see slight increases.

[Read the COLA memorandum](#) | [Download your state's SNAP application](#)

**Don't miss these resources...**

**Flu+You**—Actress Judith Light joins our campaign this year to educate older adults about getting their annual flu shot, which is covered by Medicare Part B.

**Medicare Enrollment Periods Calendar**—Now is the time to download this helpful tool that explains who can use the different Medicare enrollment periods.

*Financial Planning Days*—NCOA has partnered with the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards to deliver pro bono financial planning assistance to seniors this fall. Free registration is available online and toll-free at 877-861-7826.

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