

CMS announces special enrollment period (SEP) for those impacted by recent hurricanes

Instructions for assisting your Medicare clients

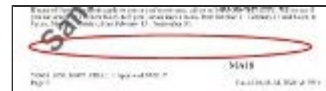
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing a special enrollment period (SEP) to all Medicare beneficiaries affected by recent weather-related emergencies or major disasters. The SEP gives impacted beneficiaries an additional opportunity to change their Medicare plan (MA/MAPD, PDP) in the event they were unable to make an election during another qualifying election period. Read the CMS [press release](#).

What you need to know

Those affected by weather-related emergencies or major disaster may use this SEP opportunity through December 31, 2017. It is available in addition to the Annual Election Period (AEP) and any other enrollment period for which the beneficiary may be eligible.

Producers may assist eligible beneficiaries with making these enrollment requests. If you submit enrollments directly to Aetna, you are eligible to earn a commission. Make sure you use the enrollment form that corresponds with the expected effective date. For example, use the 2017 enrollment form for effective dates in 2017 and the 2018 enrollment form for effective dates in 2018.

- **If using a paper application**, at the bottom of page 1 (where circled), write in “OTH/SEP” and a description (i.e., “weather event in FL”). Also, clearly write in the proposed effective date of coverage on page 6.
- **If submitting enrollments electronically (e.g., with the Ascend Virtual Sales Office app)**, in the Confirming Your Enrollment Period section, check the “Other” checkbox and then enter a reason for using the SEP (i.e., “major disaster in TX”).



In addition, individuals may contact 1-800-MEDICARE directly to request enrollment using this special enrollment opportunity.

Please note: Our existing members don't need to do a thing if they want to keep their current plan for next year. If their current plan is available in 2018 and they decide it still works for them, they're all set. We'll automatically renew their coverage in this plan for next year.

Who's eligible for this SEP?

Individuals are eligible for this SEP if they reside, or resided at the start of the incident period, in an area where the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has declared an emergency or a major disaster. CMS defers to the information provided on the FEMA website – www.fema.gov/disasters – for a description of the areas impacted.

The SEP is also available to those individuals who don't live in the affected areas but rely on help making healthcare decisions from friends or family members who live in the affected areas.

Why would someone use this SEP?

If a disaster prevents a beneficiary from enrolling in, disenrolling from, or changing their 2017 or 2018 plan, they can use this SEP for that purpose, based on the guidelines established by CMS.

Example scenarios when beneficiaries might use this SEP:

- A beneficiary misses their Initial Enrollment Period due to one of the recent disasters. They can use this SEP to enroll in a 2017 plan to receive coverage during the remaining months of 2017. They can then use AEP to enroll in a different plan, if needed, for 2018.
- Because of a recent natural disaster, a beneficiary hasn't had time to review their 2018 plan options. Suddenly, it's December 8 and AEP is over. Fortunately, the beneficiary has an SEP available through December 31, 2017, which they can use to enroll in a plan or change plans for 2018.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact your local Aetna Medicare broker manager. You can also find more information on special enrollment periods for Medicare beneficiaries [here](#).

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