



This just in . . .

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To: EDC Offices

The following email will be distributed to a targeted list of agents today.

To: EDC Agents (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas)

Update: Special Election Period Available to Members Affected by a Weather Related Emergency or Major Disaster

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and Nate caused disruption in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have extended a Special Election Period (SEP) to Medicare beneficiaries affected by the hurricane and flooding that followed. The SEP will run from the start of the incident through Dec. 31, 2017.

Who is eligible?

Any beneficiary who resides in, or resided in, an area for which the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has declared eligible for individual and/or public assistance associated with a declaration of emergency or major disaster (see www.fema.gov/disasters) is eligible for the SEP, if the beneficiary was unable to enroll in a plan during another qualifying election period. In addition, beneficiaries who do not live in the impacted areas but receive assistance from someone living in one of the affected areas also qualify

for this SEP.

Depending on the state, the disaster designations vary. For states with specific counties designated, a link is provided below.

- Alabama – all counties
- Florida – all counties
- [Louisiana](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Mississippi](#)
- South Carolina – all counties
- [Texas](#)
- Puerto Rico – all areas
- US Virgin Islands – all areas

What does this mean for beneficiaries?

- ***Eligible beneficiaries who are unable to make a plan selection during the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) have until Dec. 31, 2017, to enroll in a 2018 Plan.*** Eligible beneficiaries who wish to change their health and/or prescription drug plan, but are unable to do so during the Annual Enrollment Period (Oct. 15, 2017-Dec. 7, 2017), will now have until Dec. 31, 2017 to enroll in a 2018 plan. Enrollments taken between Dec. 8 and Dec. 31, 2017, are effective Jan. 1, 2018.

- ***Eligible beneficiaries who were eligible for a different SEP, or aged into Medicare, but were unable to enroll during the allotted time period, will have their election period extended.*** Eligible beneficiaries who had/have a qualifying election period (e.g., aged into Medicare, are aging into Medicare or are qualified for a different SEP) but were unable to enroll in a plan during the allotted time, have until Dec. 31, 2017 to enroll. Enrollments received are effective the first day of the following month. For example, if a beneficiary aged into Medicare and had until Aug. 31, 2017, to enroll but was unable to complete the enrollment process, the beneficiary can enroll now. If the beneficiary enrolls Oct. 25, 2017, the beneficiary's plan will be effective Nov. 1, 2017.

Agent action

If a consumer contacts you as a result of this SEP, you may help them enroll in one of our plans and earn a commission. You must:

1. Ask the beneficiary for proof that the beneficiary resided in an affected area (e.g., driver's license or utility bill reflecting the beneficiary's address).
2. If the beneficiary is unable to provide proof, ask the beneficiary if they attest that they lived/live in an area impacted by the hurricanes.
3. Once you verify eligibility, you can proceed with the application.
4. You must use a paper application. Use the SEP election type code on the application, and write in Weather Related Emergency.
5. Use a **2017 paper enrollment application** when enrolling a consumer for a Nov. 1 or Dec. 1, 2017, effective date.

Annual Enrollment Period (AEP)

Please note that this Special Election Period is in addition to the Annual Enrollment Period. If beneficiaries in the impacted areas want to enroll in a plan, or change plans during AEP, with a Jan. 1, 2018, effective

date, use the AEP election code, NOT the SEP enrollment code.

One-time SEP

Eligible beneficiaries can use the SEP one time. The SEP ends when the individual elects a new MA plan or when the SEP time frame ends, whichever comes first.

Contact Us

Questions about your local market? Contact your local sales leaders.

Agent Support via Producer Help Desk (PHD)

- Phone: 888-381-8581
- phd@uhc.com
- Secure email request via [Jarvis](#). Go to the Contact Us page and click 'Get Started', and then click 'Create SR'.

Compliance questions? Email compliance_questions@uhc.com. Be sure to include your full name, contact information and writing number.

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