



Iowa Insurance Division ***News & Information (For Immediate Release)***

IOWA INSURANCE DIVISION
Two Ruan Center
601 Locust St., 4th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50309-3738

CONTACT: CHANCE MCELHANEY, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
Phone 515.242.5179
chance.mcelhaney@iid.iowa.gov
www.iid.state.ia.us

Answers for Veterans about Medicare Part B & Part D

(DES MOINES) April 9, 2015 –

The Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) and the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs are offering a new factsheet titled [Medicare and VA Healthcare](#) to help answer questions regarding the need to enroll in Medicare Part B and Part D.

There is much misunderstanding and misinformation about Veterans enrollment in Medicare Part B and Part D,” SHIIP Director Kris Gross said. “Our new factsheet, developed in partnership with the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, provides clear information and answers to many questions.”

“We’re always looking for ways to ensure veterans clearly understand the options available to them. This information concerning their health care is extremely important,” Executive Director of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs Colonel Robert King said. “Iowa’s SHIIP program is an outstanding program and provides excellent informational materials as well as one-to-one SHIIP counselor assistance – and all at no cost to the veteran.”

Veterans can review the *Medicare and VA Healthcare* factsheet online at http://www.therightcalliowa.gov/Resources/0079_Medicare_and_VA.pdf or call a SHIIP representative at 800-351-4664 to have a paper copy sent by postal mail.

The factsheet answers questions for veterans including:

- Do I need to enroll in Medicare Part B?
- Should I consider purchasing a Medicare supplement policy?
- How do Medicare Advantage plans coordinate with VA benefits?
- Do I need to enroll in the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit?
- If I enroll in Part B and D can I get help with these costs?

SHIIP representatives are available free of charge to help answer questions for Iowans about Medicare supplement insurance. To meet with a trained SHIIP insurance counselor please call 800-351-4664 or visit SHIIP's website at www.therightcalliowa.gov. SHIIP counselors do not sell insurance or promote specific insurance companies, policies or agents.

About the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP)

The Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) was created in 1990 by the Iowa Insurance Division. SHIIP advocates, informs, educates and assists consumers on Medicare and related health insurance issues so they can make informed decisions and access resources to address their needs. SHIIP services are free, objective and confidential. Iowans can contact SHIIP by calling 800-351-4664 or online at <http://www.therightcalliowa.gov>.

About the Iowa Insurance Division

The Iowa Insurance Division (IID) has general control, supervision and direction over all insurance and securities business transacted in the state, and enforces Iowa's laws and regulations. The IID investigates consumer complaints and prosecutes companies, agents and brokers engaging in unfair trade practices. Consumers with insurance or securities-related questions or complaints may contact the IID toll free at 877-955-1212 or online at www.iid.iowa.gov.

About the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs

The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs mission is to stand as a voice and an advocate for veterans and their families. The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs is dedicated to ensuring Iowa veterans, their dependents, and their survivors receive the full measure of county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled. To that end, veterans are treated with compassion, integrity, dignity, and accountability. Iowans may contact the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs toll free at 800-838-4692 or online at <https://va.iowa.gov/>. Local county Veterans Affairs Offices can be found on this website also.