

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2018

Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:


We write expressing our concern that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is inappropriately working to steer Medicare beneficiaries to Medicare Advantage plans. It has come to our attention that CMS is sending regular, targeted messages highlighting Medicare Advantage, but not Original Medicare, during the Medicare Open Enrollment period. In order to correct this imbalance, we urge you to send targeted messages regarding Original Medicare that will match the efforts made for Medicare Advantage.


As required by law, CMS should make information equally and fully available regarding all Medicare options. However, CMS has failed to send similar messages regarding original Medicare. Furthermore, these emails neglect to mention critical distinctions between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage, particularly related to providers. While Medicare Advantage allows beneficiaries to combine all benefits in one plan, it should come with the caveat that these plans usually limit access to a specific network of providers, generally to a particular geographic area.

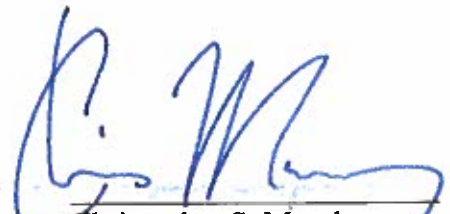
We believe that any messages sent during Open Enrollment highlight that there are critical differences between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage. It is imperative that CMS provide beneficiaries with accurate information from a neutral, balanced perspective.

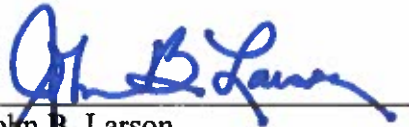
Thank you for your attention to our concerns, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

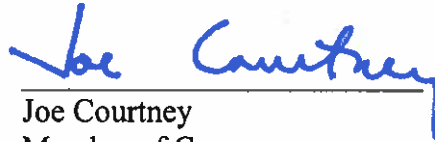

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