

Time is fast approaching for seniors to compare, change or stay with their prescription drug plans for the year 2011.

Anyone enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug (Part D) plan will have the opportunity to compare, change or stay with the same from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 either by visiting the Medicare website: <http://www.medicare.gov>, calling Medicare @1-800-662-4227 or setting up an appointment at the number listed below.

Again this year the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) Volunteers and the University of Nebraska Extension Educators have teamed up to provide free, unbiased counseling information and enrollment for people age 65 or older or people with disabilities who are receiving Medicare.

New premiums and deductibles for the 2012 Prescription Drug plans have been released. There are 33 plans for Nebraska with premiums ranging from as low as \$15.10 per month to \$106.50 per month. Plan deductibles will range from \$0 to \$320.

To facilitate counseling and enrollment a person will need to bring a pharmacy printout of their current medications with the dosage and times taken per day, their Medicare card, and any information from their current prescription drug plan.

This is the time to compare, change or stay the same with a drug plan.

A SHIIP representative will be taking appointments for weekdays between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7 by calling 308-352-4612.