

Mysteries of Medicare - Are You Enrolled in Medicare or Turning 65 Soon?

In either case, APPRISE, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (“SHIP”) of Pennsylvania, can help you to understand your health care coverage options so you can make sound choices - both when new to Medicare and on an ongoing basis. APPRISE counselors are specially-trained volunteers who can answer questions about Medicare, Medigap plans, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Prescription Plans, and more. Our services are confidential and unbiased. In Chester County, APPRISE operates under the Chester County Department of Aging Services. We are funded through the Administration for Community Living under the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Most people are overwhelmed by the deluge of information sent to them when they become Medicare eligible. A “Medicare 101” presentation provided by an APPRISE counselor can help you understand when and how to enroll and your options for coverage in addition to basic Medicare. Our services go beyond your initial enrollment; we can help you evaluate your coverage during the Annual Open Enrollment Period (AOEP), Oct 15 through Dec 7, help file an appeal if a claim is denied, help low income individuals apply for and navigate various assistance programs such as Medicaid and PACE, and generally answer your questions on Medicare and related health insurance. We offer one-on-one meetings with an APPRISE counselor at eleven convenient locations across Chester County (see below), and you can also contact us by phone (610-344-5004) and email (appriseshesco@outlook.com). During AOEP we hold special counseling sessions at senior centers, libraries, and other locations.

Chester County APPRISE counseling locations and contact numbers:

Church of the Good Samaritan (Paoli)	610-344-6035
Coatesville Senior Center	610-383-6900
Downingtown Senior Center	610-269-3939
East Goshen Township	610-344-6035
Government Services Center (Westtown Road, West Chester)	610-344-6035
Kennett Area Senior Center	610-444-4819
Oxford Senior Center	610-932-5244
Phoenixville Senior Center	610-935-1515
Surrey Services for Seniors (Devon)	610-647-6404
West Chester Senior Center	610-431-4242
West Whiteland Township Building	610-344-6035