

TO: GUILFORD MEDICAL PATIENTS

RE: MEDICARE ADVANTAGE INSURANCE PLANS

Medicare Advantage Plans are health plan options that are part of the Medicare program. If you join one of these plans, all of your Medicare-covered health care is generally taken care of through that plan.

While Medicare Advantage Plans may offer some additional benefits to the patient, it is not in the best interest of physician offices and other health care providers to participate with these plans. For that reason, many physicians to whom we refer our patients no longer accept the Medicare Advantage Plans. We urge you to carefully consider the fact that your health care provider(s) may discontinue participation with Medicare Advantage Plans. Signing up for basic Medicare coverage plus a Medigap policy is a much better course of action to ensure continued participation by your physicians and continuity of care for yourself.

We at Guilford Medical Associates review our insurance plan participation at regular intervals throughout the year and continue to participate with Medicare Advantage Plans out of concern for and as a courtesy to our patients who have joined those plans. Our participation is becoming more difficult and we would like to give our patients as much notice as possible should we decide to discontinue seeing Medicare Advantage Plan patients. We encourage you to check your policy, as these plans typically have a 30 day opt-out policy should you decide to change insurance coverage.

If you are nearing Medicare age and are looking into health care options, or if you are currently participating in a Medicare Advantage Plan, we can answer your questions and help you make the best decision regarding your health care needs.