

# National Medicare Education Week

Helping to make Medicare easier to understand.

## What is National Medicare Education Week?

National Medicare Education Week is an official week dedicated to helping baby boomers, Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers learn more about Medicare. It is an extension of UnitedHealthcare's Medicare Made Clear™ initiative, which was created to make Medicare easier to understand.

National Medicare Education Week was established in 2012. Proud 2015 supporters include UnitedHealthcare, AARP, the Caregiver Action Network (CAN), the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), Walgreens, Albertsons and Safeway, in addition to local health care providers, senior centers and other organizations nationwide.

## When is National Medicare Education Week?

National Medicare Education Week is celebrated annually from Sept. 15-21. It begins exactly one month before the start of the Medicare Open Enrollment Period (Oct. 15-Dec. 7). Learning about Medicare during National Medicare Education Week may help beneficiaries feel better prepared to make confident decisions about their health care coverage during the Open Enrollment Period.

## Why was National Medicare Education Week created?

The number of people in need of clear information about Medicare is great—and growing. National Medicare Education Week was established to help meet this demand and to help empower people to make informed, confident decisions about their Medicare coverage.

- ★ More than 54 million Americans are enrolled in Medicare.
- ★ The Medicare-eligible population is growing exponentially as baby boomers age into the program at a rate of 10,000 every day. That correlates to one person becoming eligible for Medicare every eight seconds.
- ★ According to the Medicare Made Clear Index, a 2013 survey conducted by UnitedHealthcare, 1 in 5 Medicare beneficiaries describes Medicare as confusing, and most are not able to correctly identify the health care expenses that Medicare Parts A, B, C and D cover. Baby boomers in their early 60s who are approaching Medicare eligibility also struggle to understand the program, with 70 percent describing their understanding of Medicare as “fair” or “poor.”

## How can people participate in National Medicare Education Week?

National Medicare Education Week is not just for those who are enrolled in Medicare—it's a time for all Americans to get informed about Medicare. Health care professionals, caregivers, friends and family members of Medicare beneficiaries can also participate in National Medicare Education Week:

- ★ **Visit MedicareMadeClear.com** where you can find information about the week and learn about Medicare.
- ★ **Attend a National Medicare Education Week event**, which will be held in select cities across the country.
- ★ **Participate in a Facebook Q&A session** with Medicare Made Clear, where you can get answers to your Medicare questions in real-time.
- ★ **Help friends or family members who are Medicare beneficiaries** learn about their options to help ensure they have health care coverage that is right for them.
- ★ **Learn more about Medicare** by visiting MedicareMadeClear.com, Medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY: 1-877-486-2048), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To learn more about National Medicare Education Week visit [MedicareMadeClear.com](http://MedicareMadeClear.com).

