

## **Medicare Annual Enrollment Period Changes**

For the first time, Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period will be held a month earlier than usual. This year, Annual Enrollment will begin October 15 and will continue until December 7. According to the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP), "The dates were changed to avoid most of the end-of-the year holidays and allow plan sponsors to get enrollment packets and new coverage cards to beneficiaries before January." This also allows an extra week for Medicare beneficiaries to decide on the best option for them for the next year.

OSHIIP will be hosting Medicare Check Up events in every county in Ohio beginning in September. During these check-ups volunteers will be giving information on Medicare and changes to the program in the coming year. Volunteers will also provide counseling sessions and work with beneficiaries in choosing a Medicare plan.

For more information about Medicare Annual Enrollment, contact OSHIIP at 1-800-686-1578 or visit the Ohio Department of Insurance's website at [www.insurance.ohio.gov](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov).