7 Things to Check Before You Keep Your Medicare Plan for 2027

You probably received an Annual Notice of Change from your Medicare plan. Did you actually read it?

If you're like many people, you may have looked at it briefly - or put it aside altogether. But Medicare plans can change from one year to the next. Before automatically keeping the same plan, here are seven things worth checking.

1. What does your Annual Notice of Change actually say?

Don't assume your 2027 plan is identical to your 2026 plan. Look for changes in premiums, copays, deductibles, coverage and other costs.

2. Are your doctors and hospitals still in the plan's network?

Check the doctors, specialists and hospitals that matter to you. A plan can still look good on paper and be a poor fit if the providers you use are no longer available on the same terms.

3. Are your prescriptions still covered - and what will they cost?

Check each medication, not just whether the plan has drug coverage. Formularies, cost sharing and coverage requirements can change.

4. Have the costs changed enough to matter to you?

The monthly premium is only one number. Also look at deductibles, copays, coinsurance and your potential out-of-pocket costs based on how you actually use healthcare.

5. Have your healthcare needs changed?

New doctors, prescriptions, diagnoses, planned procedures or simply using more healthcare than you did a year ago can change what you need from a plan.

6. Are you comparing benefits you'll actually use?

Features are what a plan offers. Benefits are what you'll actually use.
Extra dental, vision, hearing, transportation, fitness or other features may sound impressive, but they only have real value if they matter to you. *Don't choose a plan based on a long list of extras you'll never use.*

7. Should you keep the plan you already have?

Changing plans is not the goal. The goal is to make sure your current coverage still makes sense. If it does, keeping it may be exactly the right thing to do. If it doesn't, it may be time to look at other options.

The purpose of an annual Medicare review isn't to find a reason to change plans.
It's to make sure you still have a reason to keep yours.

There isn't one Medicare plan that's right for everyone. That's the point.

If you'd rather not sort through all of this yourself, I'm happy to help you review your coverage. I've been helping people with Medicare for more than 30 years, and sometimes the best advice is simply to leave things exactly as they are.

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