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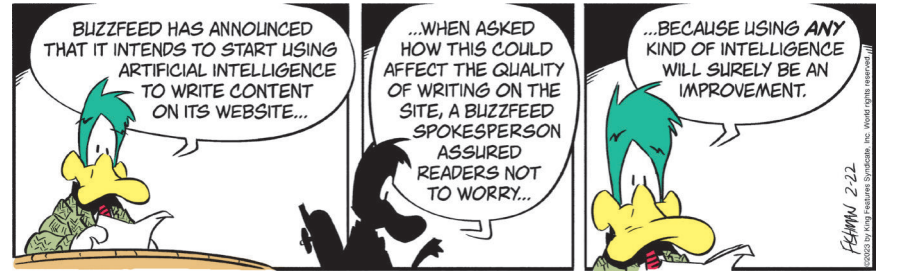
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By Loren Fishman



SUNDAY, LOCAL COMMENTARY | MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY, POLITICAL OPINION | WEDNESDAY, HEALTH & WELLNESS ADVICE | SATURDAY, POSITIVE LIVING

A VIEW FROM THE VILLAGES HEALTH

Now through March 31, Medicare Advantage enrollees are provided a window of opportunity to pick a different advantage plan and examine their options.



Emilio Noble

COMMENTARY

This is an important “second chance” to make a final decision about your health care plan options for the rest of the year.

Thankfully, this enrollment period allows those enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan to ensure they have access to the physicians and health care they desire. This is the time to be sure you made the right choice and to check that you still have access to your favorite Villages Health physicians and health care teams.

We sometimes find some patients switch to a Medicare Advantage plan

not accepted by The Villages Health during the Annual Enrollment Period, which runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 each year. Then, they try to schedule an appointment with their physician at the start of the new year, only to find it is a plan we don't accept.

That's why the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period is so crucial.

For those who may have signed up with a non-accepted plan, they can switch back to one we do accept, which includes Medicare Advantage plans from Florida Blue and UnitedHealthcare and Humana. Traditional Medicare supplements are not accepted.

It's also important to note that new movers to the area and those turning 65 can also switch to one of our accepted plans year-round. Moving to a new area provides enrollees an opportunity to switch plans one month before their move up until two months after they move. For those who may have another plan from their original home state, this is the best time to weigh their options.

During the seven-month

period that starts three months before the month you turn 65, the month you turn 65, and three months after the month you turn 65, you can sign up for a Medicare Advantage Plan. We understand this can be a confusing time, but we help take the guesswork out of deciding.

Learning more about your options is easy at our care centers at The Villages Health. Adjacent to each of our primary care centers and our specialty care center at The Center for Advanced Healthcare at Brownwood is a Health Insurance Resource Center. There, licensed insurance agents are available to assist 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily to answer all your Medicare Advantage questions. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged.

The Villages Health holds its patients' overall health as its number one priority. Our care model focuses on keeping patients healthy and healing them quickly by delivering community-based, patient-centered health care services that rank in the top for both quality of care and patient experience.

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Benefits of being a patient of The Villages Health includes access to services not always seen in other, run-of-the-mill health care facilities, such as coordinated, convenient care between their primary and specialty care physicians, added in-house primary care services such as behavioral health and audiology, team-based health care, same-day sick appointments, free wellness classes, little to no wait times, a Saturday EZ-Care Clinic and much, much more. While you don't have to be a patient of The Villages community, for those who do live in The Villages, our care centers are easily accessed via golf cart.

To learn more about your Medicare Advantage plan options from a licensed agent, visit one of the conveniently located Health Insurance Resources Centers adjacent to The Villages Health at HI-RC.com or visit one of our knowledgeable new patient specialists by calling us at (844) TVH-WELL (844-884-9355) or visit thevillageshealth.com.

Emilio Noble is vice president of sales and marketing for The Villages Health.

High-Yield Savings

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Offer valid as of December 30, 2022, and may be cancelled at any time without notice. Membership and eligibility requirements apply. No institutional funds. Fees may reduce earnings. Contact employees for further information on fees and terms. Minimum to open is \$25,000. \$5 million maximum per Social Security number. Not available for commercial accounts. This is a tiered product. 3.00% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) currently applies to all tiers regardless of balance. Rates may change after the account is opened, without notice. APY shown is accurate as of December 30, 2022.