
SECTION 2 When can you end your membership in our plan?

You may end your membership in our plan only during certain times of the year, known as enrollment periods. All members have the opportunity to leave the plan during the Annual Enrollment Period and during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period. In certain situations, you may also be eligible to leave the plan at other times of the year.

Section 2.1	You can end your membership during the Annual Enrollment Period
--------------------	--

You can end your membership during the **Annual Enrollment Period** (also known as the “Annual Open Enrollment Period”). This is the time when you should review your health and drug coverage and make a decision about your coverage for the upcoming year.

- **When is the Annual Enrollment Period?** This happens from October 15 to December 7.

Note: If you’re in a drug management program, you may not be able to change plans. Chapter 5, Section 10 tells you more about drug management programs.

- **What type of plan can you switch to during the Annual Enrollment Period?** You can choose to keep your current coverage or make changes to your coverage for the upcoming year. If you decide to change to a new plan, you can choose any of the following types of plans:
 - Another Medicare health plan. (You can choose a plan that covers prescription drugs or one that does not cover prescription drugs.)
 - Original Medicare *with* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.
 - – *or* – Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.

If you receive “Extra Help” from Medicare to pay for your prescription drugs: If you switch to Original Medicare and do not enroll in a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you have opted out of automatic enrollment.

Note: If you disenroll from Medicare prescription drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage, you may have to pay a Part D late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. (“Creditable” coverage means the coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug coverage.) See Chapter 1, Section 5 for more information about the late enrollment penalty.

- **When will your membership end?** Your membership will end when your new plan’s coverage begins on January 1.

Section 2.2	You can end your membership during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period
--------------------	---

You have the opportunity to make *one* change to your health coverage during the **Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period**.

- **When is the annual Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period?** This happens every year from January 1 to March 31.
- **What type of plan can you switch to during the annual Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period?** During this time, you can:
 - Switch to another Medicare Advantage Plan. (You can choose a plan that covers prescription drugs or one that does not cover prescription drugs.)
 - Disenroll from our plan and obtain coverage through Original Medicare. If you choose to switch to Original Medicare during this period, you have until March 31 to join a separate Medicare prescription drug plan to add drug coverage.
- **When will your membership end?** Your membership will end on the first day of the month after you enroll in a different Medicare Advantage plan or we get your request to switch to Original Medicare. If you also choose to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, your membership in the drug plan will begin the first day of the month after the drug plan gets your enrollment request.

Section 2.3	In certain situations, you can end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period
--------------------	--

In certain situations, members of the plan may be eligible to end their membership at other times of the year. This is known as a **Special Enrollment Period**.

- **Who is eligible for a Special Enrollment Period?** If any of the following situations apply to you, you may be eligible to end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period. These are just examples, for the full list you can contact the plan, call Medicare, or visit the Medicare website (<https://www.medicare.gov>):
 - Usually, when you have moved.
 - If you have South Carolina Medicaid (SC Department of Health and Human Services).
 - If you are eligible for “Extra Help” with paying for your Medicare prescriptions.
 - If we violate our contract with you.
 - If you are getting care in an institution, such as a nursing home or long-term care (LTC) hospital.
 - If you enroll in the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).
- **When are Special Enrollment Periods?** The enrollment periods vary depending on your situation.

Chapter 10. Ending your membership in the plan

- **What can you do?** To find out if you are eligible for a Special Enrollment Period, please call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. If you are eligible to end your membership because of a special situation, you can choose to change both your Medicare health coverage and prescription drug coverage. This means you can choose any of the following types of plans:
 - Another Medicare health plan. (You can choose a plan that covers prescription drugs or one that does not cover prescription drugs.)
 - Original Medicare *with* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.
 - – *or* – Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.

If you receive “Extra Help” from Medicare to pay for your prescription drugs: If you switch to Original Medicare and do not enroll in a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you have opted out of automatic enrollment.

Note: If you disenroll from Medicare prescription drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage for a continuous period of 63 days or more, you may have to pay a Part D late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. (“Creditable” coverage means the coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug coverage.) See Chapter 1, Section 5 for more information about the late enrollment penalty.

- **When will your membership end?** Your membership will usually end on the first day of the month after your request to change your plan is received.

Section 2.4 Where can you get more information about when you can end your membership?

If you have any questions or would like more information on when you can end your membership:

- You can **call Member Services** (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).
- You can find the information in the *Medicare & You 2019* Handbook.
 - Everyone with Medicare receives a copy of *Medicare & You* each fall. Those new to Medicare receive it within a month after first signing up.
 - You can also download a copy from the Medicare website (<https://www.medicare.gov>). Or, you can order a printed copy by calling Medicare at the number below.

You can contact **Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.