

ANNUAL NOTICE OF CHANGE 2018

**Alignment Health Plan
My Choice Plan (HMO) 001**

Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside
and San Bernardino Counties



Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO) offered by Alignment Health Plan

Annual Notice of Changes for 2018

You are currently enrolled as a member of Alignment Health Plan Heritage Preferred Choice (HMO). Next year, there will be some changes to the plan's costs and benefits. *This booklet tells about the changes.*

- **You have from October 15 until December 7 to make changes to your Medicare coverage for next year.**
-

What to do now

1. ASK: Which changes apply to you

- Check the changes to our benefits and costs to see if they affect you.
 - It's important to review your coverage now to make sure it will meet your needs next year.
 - Do the changes affect the services you use?
 - Look in Sections 3.5 and 3.6 for information about benefit and cost changes for our plan.
- Check the changes in the booklet to our prescription drug coverage to see if they affect you.
 - Will your drugs be covered?
 - Are your drugs in a different tier, with different cost-sharing?
 - Do any of your drugs have new restrictions, such as needing approval from us before you fill your prescription?
 - Can you keep using the same pharmacies? Are there changes to the cost of using this pharmacy?
 - Review the 2018 Drug List and look in Section 3.6 for information about changes to our drug coverage.
- Think about your overall health care costs.
 - How much will you spend out-of-pocket for the services and prescription drugs you use regularly?
 - How much will you spend on your premium and deductibles?
 - How do your total plan costs compare to other Medicare coverage options?

Think about whether you are happy with our plan.

2. COMPARE: Learn about other plan choices

Check coverage and costs of plans in your area.

- Use the personalized search feature on the Medicare Plan Finder at <https://www.medicare.gov> website. Click “Find health & drug plans.”
- Review the list in the back of your *Medicare & You* handbook.
- Look in Section 4.2 to learn more about your choices.

Once you narrow your choice to a preferred plan, confirm your costs and coverage on the plan’s website.

3. CHOOSE: Decide whether you want to change your plan

- If you want to **keep** Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO), you don’t need to do anything. You will stay in Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO).
- To change to a **different plan** that may better meet your needs, you can switch plans between October 15 and December 7.

4. ENROLL: To change plans, join a plan between **October 15** and **December 7, 2017**

- If you **don’t join by December 7, 2017**, you will stay in Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO).
- If you **join by December 7, 2017**, your new coverage will start on January 1, 2018.

Additional Resources

- This document is available for free in Spanish.
- Please contact our Member Services number at 1-866-634-2247 for additional information. (TTY users should call 711.) Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30.
- Esta información está disponible gratis en otros idiomas. Si desea información adicional, comuníquese con Servicios para Miembros al 1-877-399-2247 para obtener más información. (Los usuarios de TTY deben llamar al 711). Las horas del servicio son de 8 a. m. a 8 p. m., los 7 días de la semana (excepto el Día de Acción de Gracias y Navidad) desde el 1.º de Octubre hasta el 14 de Febrero, y de lunes a viernes (excepto los feriados) desde el 15 de Febrero hasta el 30 de Septiembre
- If you would like to receive this *Annual Notice of Changes* in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, or large print) please contact our Member Services number at 1-866-634-2247 (TTY users should call 711). Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30.

- **Coverage under this Plan qualifies as minimum essential coverage (MEC)** and satisfies the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's (ACA) individual shared responsibility requirement. Please visit the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) website at <https://www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Individuals-and-Families> for more information.

About Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO)

- Alignment Health Plan is an HMO, HMO POS and an HMO SNP plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO) depends on contract renewal.
- When this booklet says “we,” “us,” or “our,” it means Alignment Health Plan. When it says “plan” or “our plan,” it means Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO).

Alignment Health Plan complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. **ATTENTION:** If you speak Spanish or Chinese, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-866-634-2247 (TTY: 711).

Alignment Health Plan cumple con las leyes federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo. **ATENCIÓN:** Si usted habla Español, servicios de asistencia lingüística, de forma gratuita, están disponibles para usted. Llame al 1-877-399-2247 (TTY: 711).

Alignment Health Plan 遵守所有聯邦民權法的規定，沒有種族、膚色、出生國、年齡、殘障或性別的歧視。注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-866-634-2247 (TTY: 711)。

Summary of Important Costs for 2018

The table below compares the 2017 costs and 2018 costs for Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO) in several important areas. **Please note this is only a summary of changes. It is important to read the rest of this *Annual Notice of Changes* and review the enclosed *Evidence of Coverage* to see if other benefit or cost changes affect you.**

Cost	2017 (this year)	2018 (next year)
Monthly plan premium* * Your premium may be higher or lower than this amount. See Section 3.1 for details.	\$0	\$0
Maximum out-of-pocket amount This is the <u>most</u> you will pay out-of-pocket for your covered Part A and Part B services. (See Section 3.2 for details.)	\$3,400	\$3,400
Doctor office visits	Primary care visits: \$0 copay per visit Specialist visits: \$0 copay per visit	Primary care visits: \$0 copay per visit Specialist visits: \$0 copay per visit
Inpatient hospital stays Includes inpatient acute, inpatient rehabilitation, long-term care hospitals and other types of inpatient hospital services. Inpatient hospital care starts the day you are formally admitted to the hospital with a doctor's order. The day before you are discharged is your last inpatient day.	\$0 copay (unlimited days per admission)	\$50 copay days 1-3 \$0 copay days 4-90 (unlimited days per admission)

Part D prescription drug coverage

(See Section 3.6 for details.)

Deductible: \$0

Copayment/Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage:

- Preferred Generic Drugs Tier 1 (30 Days)
 - Preferred cost-sharing: \$0 copay
 - Standard cost-sharing: \$7 copay
- Generic Drugs Tier 2 (30 Days)
 - Preferred cost-sharing: \$5 copay
 - Standard cost-sharing: \$12 copay
- Preferred Brand Drugs Tier 3 (30 Days)
 - Preferred cost-sharing: \$30 copay
 - Standard cost-sharing: \$37 copay
- Non-Preferred Brand Drugs Tier 4 (30 Days)
 - Preferred cost-sharing: \$75 copay
 - Standard cost-sharing: \$82 copay
- Specialty Drugs Tier 5 (30 Days): 33% coinsurance
- Select Care Drugs Tier 6:
 - Preferred/Standard cost-sharing (30 Days): \$3 copay
 - Preferred/Standard cost-sharing (61 to 100 Days): \$0 copay

Deductible: \$0

Copayment/Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage:

- Preferred Generic Drugs Tier 1 (30 Days)
 - Preferred cost-sharing: \$1 copay
 - Standard cost-sharing: \$8 copay
- Generic Drugs Tier 2 (30 Days)
 - Preferred cost-sharing: \$5 copay
 - Standard cost-sharing: \$12 copay
- Preferred Brand Drugs Tier 3 (30 Days)
 - Preferred cost-sharing: \$30 copay
 - Standard cost-sharing: \$37 copay
- Non-Preferred Brand Drugs Tier 4 (30 Days)
 - Preferred cost-sharing: \$75 copay
 - Standard cost-sharing: \$82 copay
- Specialty Drugs Tier 5 (30 Days): 33% coinsurance
- Select Care Drugs Tier 6:
 - Preferred/Standard cost-sharing (30 Days): \$3 copay
 - Preferred/Standard cost-sharing (61 to 100 Days): \$0 copay

Annual Notice of Changes for 2018
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SECTION 1 We Are Changing the Plan's Name

On January 1, 2018, our plan name will change from Alignment Health Plan Heritage Preferred Choice (HMO) to Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO).

You will be receiving new ID cards in the mail. Beneficiary materials including member newsletters and publications such as your Evidence of Coverage, Drug Formulary, Provider Directories and all other Health Plan materials will contain the new Medicare Advantage Organization name Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO) as appropriate.

SECTION 2 Unless You Choose Another Plan, You Will Be Automatically Enrolled in Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO) in 2018

On January 1, 2018, Alignment Health Plan will be combining Alignment Health Plan Heritage Preferred Choice (HMO) with one of our plans, Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO).

If you do nothing to change your Medicare coverage by December 7, 2017, we will automatically enroll you in our Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO). This means starting January 1, 2018, you will be getting your medical and prescription drug coverage through Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO). If you want to, you can change to a different Medicare health plan. You can also switch to Original Medicare. If you want to change, you must do so between October 15 and December 7. If you are eligible for Low Income Subsidies, you can change plans at any time.

The information in this document tells you about the differences between your current benefits in Alignment Health Plan Heritage Preferred Choice (HMO) and the benefits you will have on January 1, 2018 as a member of Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO).

SECTION 3 Changes to Benefits and Costs for Next Year

Section 3.1 – Changes to the Monthly Premium

Cost	2017 (this year)	2018 (next year)
Monthly premium (You must also continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium.)	\$0	\$0

- Your monthly plan premium will be *more* if you are required to pay a lifetime Part D late enrollment penalty for going without other drug coverage that is at least as good as

Medicare drug coverage (also referred to as “creditable coverage”) for 63 days or more, if you enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage in the future.

- If you have a higher income, you may have to pay an additional amount each month directly to the government for your Medicare prescription drug coverage.
- Your monthly premium will be *less* if you are receiving “Extra Help” with your prescription drug costs.

Section 3.2 – Changes to Your Maximum Out-of-Pocket Amount

To protect you, Medicare requires all health plans to limit how much you pay “out-of-pocket” during the year. This limit is called the “maximum out-of-pocket.” Once you reach this amount, you generally pay nothing for covered Part A and Part B services for the rest of the year.

Cost	2017 (this year)	2018 (next year)
Maximum out-of-pocket amount	\$3,400	\$3,400
Your costs for covered medical services (such as copays) count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount. Your plan costs for prescription drugs do not count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount.		Once you have paid \$3,400 out-of-pocket for covered Part A and Part B services, you will pay nothing for your covered Part A and Part B services for the rest of the calendar year.

Section 3.3 – Changes to the Provider Network

There are changes to our network of providers for next year. An updated *Provider Directory* is located on our website at alignmenthealthplan.com. You may also call Member Services for updated provider information or to ask us to mail you a *Provider Directory*. **Please review the 2018 *Provider Directory* to see if your providers (primary care provider, specialists, hospitals, etc.) are in our network.**

It is important that you know that we may make changes to the hospitals, doctors and specialists (providers) that are part of your plan during the year. There are a number of reasons why your provider might leave your plan but if your doctor or specialist does leave your plan you have certain rights and protections summarized below:

- Even though our network of providers may change during the year, Medicare requires that we furnish you with uninterrupted access to qualified doctors and specialists.
- We will make a good faith effort to provide you with at least 30 days’ notice that your provider is leaving our plan so that you have time to select a new provider.

- We will assist you in selecting a new qualified provider to continue managing your health care needs.
- If you are undergoing medical treatment you have the right to request, and we will work with you to ensure, that the medically necessary treatment you are receiving is not interrupted.
- If you believe we have not furnished you with a qualified provider to replace your previous provider or that your care is not being appropriately managed, you have the right to file an appeal of our decision.
- If you find out your doctor or specialist is leaving your plan, please contact us so we can assist you in finding a new provider and managing your care.

Section 3.4 – Changes to the Pharmacy Network

Amounts you pay for your prescription drugs may depend on which pharmacy you use. Medicare drug plans have a network of pharmacies. In most cases, your prescriptions are covered *only* if they are filled at one of our network pharmacies. Our network includes pharmacies with preferred cost-sharing, which may offer you lower cost-sharing than the standard cost-sharing offered by other network pharmacies for some drugs.

There are changes to our network of pharmacies for next year. An updated *Pharmacy Directory* is located on our website at alignmenthealthplan.com. You may also call Member Services for updated provider information or to ask us to mail you a *Pharmacy Directory*. **Please review the 2018 Pharmacy Directory to see which pharmacies are in our network.**

Section 3.5 – Changes to Benefits and Costs for Medical Services

We are changing our coverage for certain medical services next year. The information below describes these changes. For details about the coverage and costs for these services, see Chapter 4, *Medical Benefits Chart (what is covered and what you pay)*, in your *2018 Evidence of Coverage*.

Cost	2017 (this year)	2018 (next year)
Inpatient Hospital (Acute)	\$0 copay (unlimited days)	You pay a \$50 copay days 1-3 \$0 copay days 4-90 (unlimited days per admission)

Cost	2017 (this year)	2018 (next year)
<p>Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital</p>	<p>You pay a \$75 copay days 1-10 \$0 copay days 11-90 \$0 copay days 91-130</p> <p>(40 additional day limit)</p> <p>\$0 copay 60 days Lifetime reserve</p>	<p>You pay a \$250 copay Medicare covered stay</p> <p>You pay a \$120 copay days 1-10 \$0 copay days 11-90</p> <p>\$0 copay 40 additional day limit (days 91-130)</p> <p>\$0 copay 60 days Lifetime reserve</p>
<p>Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay days 1-20 \$85 copay days 21-100</p> <p>(no prior hospital stay required)</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay days 1-20 \$30 copay days 21-100</p> <p>(no prior hospital stay required)</p>
<p>Urgently Needed Services</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 - \$25 copay</p> <p>(Waived if admitted within 24 hours)</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 - \$10 copay</p> <p>(Waived if admitted within 24 hours)</p>
<p>Worldwide Emergency/Urgent Coverage</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay</p> <p>Worldwide coverage up to \$7,500 per year</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay</p> <p>Worldwide coverage up to \$25,000 per year</p>
<p>Podiatry Services</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay Medicare covered</p> <p>You pay a \$0 copay routine (6 per year)</p>	<p>You pay a \$5 copay Medicare covered podiatry</p> <p>You pay a \$5 copay routine podiatry</p> <p>Unlimited routine podiatry</p>

Cost	2017 (this year)	2018 (next year)
Outpatient Substance Abuse (Individual / Group)	You pay a \$40 copay	You pay a \$50 copay
Transportation	You pay a \$0 copay/16 one way trips to plan approved location every year (within a 20-mile radius)	You pay a \$0 copay/22 one way trips to plan approved location every year (within a 25-mile radius)
Dental Services (Comprehensive)	\$0 -425 copay for Medicare Covered dental benefits. Copays apply for additional dental benefits	\$0 -425 copay for Medicare Covered dental benefits. Copays apply for additional dental benefits Maximum Plan Benefit Coverage amount of \$1,250 per year
Eyewear	\$0 copay for glasses/contacts every 2 years. \$200 coverage limit every 2 years.	\$0 copay for glasses/contacts every 2 years. \$75 coverage limit every 2 years.

Section 3.6 – Changes to Part D Prescription Drug Coverage

Changes to Our Drug List

Our list of covered drugs is called a Formulary or “Drug List.” An updated List of Covered Drugs is located on our website at alignmenthealthplan.com. You may also call Member Services at 1-866-634-2247 for updated drug information or to ask us to mail you a List of Covered Drugs.

We made changes to our Drug List, including changes to the drugs we cover and changes to the restrictions that apply to our coverage for certain drugs. **Review the Drug List to make sure your drugs will be covered next year and to see if there will be any restrictions.**

If you are affected by a change in drug coverage, you can:

- **Work with your doctor (or other prescriber) and ask the plan to make an exception** to cover the drug.
 - To learn what you must do to ask for an exception, see Chapter 9 of your *Evidence of Coverage (What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints))* or call Member Services.
- **Work with your doctor (or other prescriber) to find a different drug** that we cover. You can call Member Services to ask for a list of covered drugs that treat the same medical condition.

In some situations, we are required to cover a **one-time**, temporary supply of a non-formulary drug in the first 90 days of the plan year or the first 90 days of membership to avoid a gap in therapy. (To learn more about when you can get a temporary supply and how to ask for one, see Chapter 5, Section 5.2 of the *Evidence of Coverage*.) During the time when you are getting a temporary supply of a drug, you should talk with your doctor to decide what to do when your temporary supply runs out. You can either switch to a different drug covered by the plan or ask the plan to make an exception for you and cover your current drug.

Members who are receiving drugs as a result of an approved formulary exception received an approval letter informing them when the exception will expire. A new formulary exception request must be submitted prior to the expiration date on the letter to ensure continuity of your treatment.

Changes to Prescription Drug Costs

Note: If you are in a program that helps pay for your drugs (“Extra Help”), **the information about costs for Part D prescription drugs may not apply to you.** We sent you a separate insert, called the “Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs” (also called the “Low Income Subsidy Rider” or the “LIS Rider”), which tells you about your drug costs. If you receive “Extra Help” and haven’t received this insert by September 30, please call Member Services and ask for the “LIS Rider.” Phone numbers for Member Services are in Section 8.1 of this booklet.

There are four “drug payment stages.” How much you pay for a Part D drug depends on which drug payment stage you are in. (You can look in Chapter 6, Section 2 of your *Evidence of Coverage* for more information about the stages.)

The information below shows the changes for next year to the first two stages – the Yearly Deductible Stage and the Initial Coverage Stage. (Most members do not reach the other two stages – the Coverage Gap Stage or the Catastrophic Coverage Stage. To get information about your costs in these stages, look at Chapter 6, Sections 6 and 7, in the enclosed *Evidence of Coverage*.)

Changes to the Deductible Stage

Stage	2017 (this year)	2018 (next year)
Stage 1: Yearly Deductible Stage	Because we have no deductible, this payment stage does not apply to you.	Because we have no deductible, this payment stage does not apply to you.

Changes to Your Cost-sharing in the Initial Coverage Stage

To learn how copayments and coinsurance work, look at Chapter 6, Section 1.2, *Types of out-of-pocket costs you may pay for covered drugs in your Evidence of Coverage.*

	2017 (this year)	2018 (next year)
<p>Stage 2: Initial Coverage Stage</p> <p>During this stage, the plan pays its share of the cost of your drugs and you pay your share of the cost.</p> <p>The costs in this row are for a one-month (30-day) supply when you fill your prescription at a network pharmacy. For information about the costs for a long-term supply or for mail-order prescriptions, look in Chapter 6, Section 5 of your <i>Evidence of Coverage.</i></p> <p>We changed the tier for some of the drugs on our Drug List. To see if your drugs will be in a different tier, look them up on the Drug List.</p>	<p>Your cost for a one-month supply at a network pharmacy:</p> <p>Tier 1 Preferred Generic Drugs: Standard cost-sharing: You pay \$7 per prescription Preferred cost-sharing: You pay \$0 per prescription</p> <p>Tier 2 Generic Drugs: Standard cost-sharing: You pay \$12 per prescription Preferred cost-sharing: You pay \$5 per prescription</p> <p>Tier 3 Preferred Brand Drugs: Standard cost-sharing: You pay \$37 per prescription Preferred cost-sharing: You pay \$30 per prescription</p>	<p>Your cost for a one-month supply at a network pharmacy:</p> <p>Tier 1 Preferred Generic Drugs: Standard cost-sharing: You pay: \$8 per prescription Preferred cost-sharing: You pay \$1 per prescription</p> <p>Tier 2 Generic Drugs : Standard cost-sharing: You pay: \$12 per prescription Preferred cost-sharing: You pay \$5 per prescription</p> <p>Tier 3 Preferred Brand Drugs: Standard cost-sharing: You pay: \$37 per prescription Preferred cost-sharing: You pay \$30 per prescription.</p>

<p>Tier 4 Non-Preferred Brand Drugs: Standard cost-sharing: You pay \$82 per prescription Preferred cost-sharing: You pay \$75 per prescription</p>	<p>Tier 4 Non-Preferred Brand Drugs: Standard cost-sharing: You pay: \$82 per prescription Preferred cost-sharing: You pay \$75 per prescription</p>
<p>Tier 5 Specialty Drugs: Standard cost-sharing: You pay 33% of the cost Preferred cost-sharing: You pay 33% of the cost</p>	<p>Tier 5 Specialty Drugs: Standard cost-sharing: You pay: 33% of the total cost Preferred cost-sharing: You pay 33% of the total cost</p>
<p>Tier 6 Select Care Drugs: Standard cost-sharing: You pay \$5 per prescription Preferred cost-sharing: You pay \$5 per prescription</p>	<p>Tier 6 Select Care Drugs: Standard cost-sharing: You pay: \$3 per prescription. Preferred cost-sharing: You pay \$3 per prescription.</p>
<hr/> <p>Once your total drug costs have reached \$3,700, you will move to the next stage (the Coverage Gap Stage).</p>	<hr/> <p>Once your total drug costs have reached \$3,750, you will move to the next stage (the Coverage Gap Stage).</p>

Changes to the Coverage Gap and Catastrophic Coverage Stages

The other two drug coverage stages – the Coverage Gap Stage and the Catastrophic Coverage Stage – are for people with high drug costs. **Most members do not reach the Coverage Gap Stage or the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.** For information about your costs in these stages, look at Chapter 6, Sections 6 and 7, in your *Evidence of Coverage*.

SECTION 4 Deciding Which Plan to Choose

Section 4.1 – If you want to stay in Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO)

To stay in our plan you don't need to do anything. If you do not sign up for a different plan or change to Original Medicare by December 7, you will automatically stay enrolled as a member of our plan for 2018.

Section 4.2 – If you want to change plans

We hope to keep you as a member next year but if you want to change for 2018 follow these steps:

Step 1: Learn about and compare your choices

- You can join a different Medicare health plan,
- *OR--* You can change to Original Medicare. If you change to Original Medicare, you will need to decide whether to join a Medicare drug plan and whether to buy a Medicare supplement (Medigap) policy.

To learn more about Original Medicare and the different types of Medicare plans, read *Medicare & You 2018*, call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see Section 6), or call Medicare (see Section 8.2).

You can also find information about plans in your area by using the Medicare Plan Finder on the Medicare website. Go to <https://www.medicare.gov> and click “Find health & drug plans.” **Here, you can find information about costs, coverage, and quality ratings for Medicare plans.**

As a reminder, Alignment Health Plan offers other Medicare prescription drug plans. These other plans may differ in coverage, monthly premiums, and cost-sharing amounts.

Step 2: Change your coverage

- To change **to a different Medicare health plan**, enroll in the new plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO).
- To **change to Original Medicare with a prescription drug plan**, enroll in the new drug plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO).
- To **change to Original Medicare without a prescription drug plan**, you must either:
 - Send us a written request to disenroll. Contact Member Services if you need more information on how to do this (phone numbers are in Section 8.1 of this booklet).
 - – *or* – Contact **Medicare**, at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

SECTION 5 Deadline for Changing Plans

If you want to change to a different plan or to Original Medicare for next year, you can do it from **October 15 until December 7**. The change will take effect on January 1, 2018.

Are there other times of the year to make a change?

In certain situations, changes are also allowed at other times of the year. For example, people with Medicaid, those who get “Extra Help” paying for their drugs, those who have or are leaving employer coverage, and those who move out of the service area are allowed to make a change at other times of the year. For more information, see Chapter 10, Section 2.3 of the *Evidence of Coverage*.

If you enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan for January 1, 2018, and don’t like your plan choice, you can switch to Original Medicare between January 1 and February 14, 2018. For more information, see Chapter 10, Section 2.2 of the *Evidence of Coverage*.

SECTION 6 Programs That Offer Free Counseling about Medicare

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a government program with trained counselors in every state. In California, the SHIP is called Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP).

HICAP is independent (not connected with any insurance company or health plan). It is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give **free** local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare. HICAP counselors can help you with your Medicare questions or problems. They can help you understand your Medicare plan choices and answer questions about switching plans. You can call HICAP at 1-800-434-0222. You can learn more about HICAP by visiting their website (<https://www.aging.ca.gov/hicap/>).

SECTION 7 Programs That Help Pay for Prescription Drugs

You may qualify for help paying for prescription drugs.

- **“Extra Help” from Medicare.** People with limited incomes may qualify for “Extra Help” to pay for their prescription drug costs. If you qualify, Medicare could pay up to 75% or more of your drug costs including monthly prescription drug premiums, annual deductibles, and coinsurance. Additionally, those who qualify will not have a coverage gap or late enrollment penalty. Many people are eligible and don’t even know it. To see if you qualify, call:
 - - 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day/7 days a week;
 - The Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. TTY users should call, 1-800-325-0778 (applications); or
 - Your State Medicaid Office (applications).

SECTION 8 Questions?

Section 8.1 – Getting Help from Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO)

Questions? We're here to help. Please call Member Services at 1-866-634-2247. (TTY only, call 711). We are available for phone calls 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30. Calls to these numbers are free.

Read your 2018 *Evidence of Coverage* (it has details about next year's benefits and costs)

This *Annual Notice of Changes* gives you a summary of changes in your benefits and costs for 2018. For details, look in the 2018 *Evidence of Coverage* for Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO). The *Evidence of Coverage* is the legal, detailed description of your plan benefits. It explains your rights and the rules you need to follow to get covered services and prescription drugs. A copy of the *Evidence of Coverage* is included in this envelope.

Visit our Website

You can also visit our website at alignmenthealthplan.com. As a reminder, our website has the most up-to-date information about our provider network (*Provider Directory*) and our list of covered drugs (*Formulary/Drug List*).

Section 8.2 – Getting Help from Medicare

To get information directly from Medicare:

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

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

Visit the Medicare Website

You can visit the Medicare website (<https://www.medicare.gov>). It has information about cost, coverage, and quality ratings to help you compare Medicare health plans. You can find information about plans available in your area by using the Medicare Plan Finder on the Medicare website. (To view the information about plans, go to (<https://www.medicare.gov>) and click on "Find health & drug plans").

Read *Medicare & You 2018*

You can read the *Medicare & You 2018* Handbook. Every year in the fall, this booklet is mailed to people with Medicare. It has a summary of Medicare benefits, rights and protections, and answers to the most frequently asked questions about Medicare. If you don't have a copy of this booklet, you can get it at the Medicare website (<https://www.medicare.gov>) or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Alignment Health Plan My Choice (HMO) Member Services

Method	Member Services – Contact Information
CALL	<p>1-866-634-2247</p> <p>Calls to this number are free. 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30.</p> <p>Member Services also has free language interpreter services available for non-English speakers.</p>
TTY	<p>711</p> <p>This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking. Calls to this number are free 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through February 14, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from February 15 through September 30.</p>
FAX	1-323-728-1460
WRITE	<p>Alignment Health Plan Attention: Member Services Department 1100 W. Town and Country Rd. Suite 300 Orange, CA 92868</p>
WEBSITE	alignmenthealthplan.com

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) California's SHIP

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare.

Method	Contact Information
CALL	1-800-434-0222
WRITE	<p>California Department of Aging 1300 National Drive, Suite 200 Sacramento, CA 95834-1992</p>
WEBSITE	http://www.aging.ca.gov/hicap/default.aspx