Medicare's Open Enrollment Period
Important Dates

**Preparation Period**

**September 15 - October 1**
- **Watch for Medicare & You 2013 and annual notice of changes from your current plan.**
- **Brace yourself for a marketing deluge from Medicare Advantage, prescription drug, and Medigap plans (also known as Medicare supplement plans).**

**Research Period**

**October 1 - 14**
- **Begin comparing 2013 plan information, benefits, costs, drug information, and plan quality ratings.**
- **To compare plans, use the Medicare Plan Finder at medicare.gov.**

**Open Enrollment Period**

**October 15 - December 7**
- **Decide whether you will make any changes and carry through on them.**
- **If you decide not to make changes, your current plan will automatically re-enroll you.**
- **Don’t assume your current plan will remain the same next year. Plans often make cost and/or coverage changes year-to-year. Double-check your plan for any changes that may effect you next year.**

**Your New Plan Takes Effect**

**January 1**
- **Your new plan takes effect.**