

Arkansas Insurance Department

Mike Beebe
Governor



Jay Bradford
Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Insurance Department Provides Medicare Assistance

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS (July 8, 2010)—State Insurance Commissioner Jay Bradford announced that the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), a division within the Arkansas Insurance Department, is offering a unique opportunity this summer for older Arkansans. Seniors can call a toll-free number on a designated day and time and ask Medicare-related questions from the experts manning the phones. Space is limited to 125 callers per time slot, but each caller will be able to hear others on the line ask a question and receive the answer as well as ask specific questions themselves. “I think it will be a very educational experience,” said Bradford.

Anyone who is a Medicare beneficiary, or will be one soon, is encouraged to call. If you receive large amounts of mail relating to Medicare, Medicare Advantage Plans, or Prescription Drug Plans and don't know how to begin to sort through it, you are encouraged to call. The experts on the phone lines will also be able to offer suggestions about saving money with Medicare. Those wishing to participate in one of the calls may simply dial the toll-free number (1-800-390-5809) and when the automated system asks for it, enter the Participant Pass Code which is 5013712785. The calling schedule for July and August is:

Tuesday, July 20th @ 9 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Thursday, July 22nd @ 9 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Tuesday, July 27th @ 9 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Thursday, July 29th @ 9 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Tuesday, August 3rd @ 9 a.m.

Tuesday, August 10 @ 9a.m. & 3 p.m.
Thursday, August 12th @ 9 a.m.
Monday, August 16th @ 9 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Tuesday, August 24th @ 9 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Tuesday, August 31st, @ 9 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Additional information on the summer call schedule may be obtained by calling SHIIP at 1-800-224-6330.

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