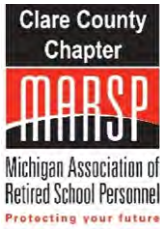


THE TATTLER



THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL CLARE COUNTY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

September 12, 2023

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Welcome, September!
I think...

I am never quite sure how to feel about September. The leaves begin their color journey and I am never quite ready. If nothing else, the shifting of Michigan seasons teaches us to embrace change whether we want to or not.

My mother always taught me, "Life IS change; be adaptable." While I try to heed her advice, I recognize I don't have to *like* it.

For the MARSP Clare County Chapter, the fall season means looking ahead to next year. Sadly, Jeanne Schelander has let us know she would like to retire from the office of vice president. We offer Jeanne sincere thanks for her joyous service to our organization.

Please consider volunteering for the office of vice president. The change might do you good.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Petrongelli
President
MARSP Clare County Chapter



FINDING SERVICES FOR SENIORS



Michigan has several laws and programs specifically designed for seniors. If you are looking to find information about them in one place, check out the Michigan Legislature's "Services for Seniors" guide.

This regularly updated, 50 page guide contains valuable information about

- taxes and special deductions,
- Medicare,
- senior discount programs,
- legal resources,
- long term care options,
- and much more.

It also contains regional phone numbers for Area Agencies on Aging, Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and helplines for multiple state departments and agencies.

The booklet can be downloaded at:
<https://legislature.mi.gov/publications/servicesforseniors.pdf>

State Senator, Roger Hauck
Senior Update 2023



MEDICARE MADE EASY

Vaccines:

Adult vaccines that are recommended by the CDC are free for Medicare beneficiaries who have a stand-alone Part D prescription drug plan or those who have a Medicare Advantage plan that includes drug coverage.

According to a 2022 report, 9 percent of Medicare participants are not enrolled in a Part D plan. That means 1 in 11 enrollees might have to pay for certain vaccines.

Ambulance:

Medicare Part B covers the cost of an ambulance in emergency situations if the trip meets several criteria:

- An ambulance is medically necessary.
- It's the only safe way to transport the patient.
- It goes to a location approved by Medicare, such as a hospital, skilled nursing facility or back home after care.
- The transportation company meets Medicare standards.
- The destination is the nearest qualifying facility that can treat you.

Note that original Medicare enrollees will be responsible for 20% of the Medicare approved ambulance charge. Supplemental Medigap policies will often cover that.

Medicare Advantage plans also cover ambulances; check with your plan to find out what your share of the cost will be.

Dena Bunis: Senior editor and writer for
aarp.org/veteran health policy journalist
AARP Bulletin April 2023



NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY

By Robert Frost

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.

SIGNS YOU ARE FROM MICHIGAN...

Your favorite ice cream shop is open for less than half the year.

You have a favorite flavor of Faygo-brand pop.

If someone tells you to "go to Hell," you don't immediately take it as an insult.

You have a somewhat irrational (let's be honest) hatred of Ohio.

You've picked berries, mushrooms or even earthworms.

Come November, you have a bag of sand, a bag of salt or a box of kitty litter in your car. In a perfect world, you have all three handy.

You believe Vernors has medicinal properties.



from: *15 Signs You Are from Michigan*
Jessica Shepherd
mlive.com
May 09, 2016



HHS SELECTS THE FIRST DRUGS FOR MEDICARE DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced the first 10 drugs covered under Medicare Part D selected for negotiation. The negotiations with participating drug companies will occur in 2023 and 2024, and any negotiated prices will become effective beginning in 2026. Medicare enrollees taking the 10 drugs covered under Part D selected for negotiation paid a total of \$3.4 billion in out-of-pocket costs in 2022 for these drugs.

The selected drug list for the first round of negotiation is:

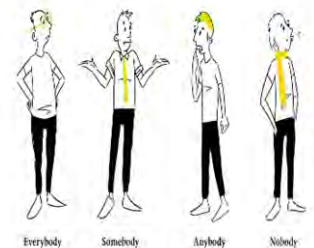
- Eliquis
- Jardiance
- Xarelto
- Januvia
- Farxiga
- Entresto
- Enbrel
- Imbruvica
- Stelara
- Fiasp; Fiasp FlexTouch; Fiasp PenFill; NovoLog; NovoLog FlexPen; NovoLog PenFill

These selected drugs accounted for \$50.5 billion in total Part D gross covered prescription drug costs, or about 20%, of total Part D gross covered prescription drug costs between June 1, 2022 and May 31, 2023, which is the time period used to determine which drugs were eligible for negotiation. CMS will publish any agreed-upon negotiated prices for the selected drugs by September 1, 2024; those prices will come into effect starting January 1, 2026. In future years, CMS will select for negotiation up to 15 more drugs covered under Part D for 2027, up to 15 more drugs for 2028 (including drugs covered under Part B and Part D), and up to 20 more drugs for each year after that, as outlined in the Inflation Reduction Act.

LABline
August 29, 2023
Medical Laboratory Observer (MLO)

THAT'S NOT MY JOB!

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.



-Author Unknown



FIVE SCENIC DRIVES

*Take a fall road trip
to see Michigan's landscape
transformed into a kaleidoscope of colors.*

➤ **U.S 41, Keweenaw Peninsula**

This two-lane road winds through the Copper Country, from the college town of Houghton and beneath a covered drive of hardwoods to Lake Superior and Copper Harbor. Don't miss photo ops at the Quincy Mine hoist, Lake Medora and numerous lighthouses.

➤ **M-119, Tunnel of Trees**

You'll be tempted to pull over frequently along this winding drive from Harbor Springs to Cross Village. The two-lane road hugs Lake Michigan, where vivid blue water contrasts with the canopy of red, orange, and yellow foliage. Stops at general stores, wineries, farm stands, historical restaurants and boutiques can easily turn this route into a day trip.

➤ **U.S.31, East Arm of Grand Traverse Bay**

It's hard to top a leaf-viewing drive from Traverse City to Petosky. Follow the shore of Lake Michigan through the resort towns of Elk Rapids, Torch Lake and Charlevoix, with the Great Lake to your west and the tree-trimmed Elk Lake, Torch Lake, Lake Charlevoix and Walloon Lake to your east.

➤ **M-25, The Thumbcoast**

Meander this uncrowded Lake Huron shoreline from Port Huron to Bay City for a brilliant fall themed road trip around Michigan's Thumb. Along the way, stop to enjoy tiny galleries and century-old lighthouses.

➤ **U.S. 12, Southwest Michigan**

Hike at Warren Dunes State Park before cruising the U.S.12 Heritage Trail through southwest Michigan. Maple and birch trees brighten a landscape dotted with tiny towns, roadside galleries and orchards. A side trip toward Baroda includes wineries like Round Barn, Tabor Hill and Free Run Cellars.

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

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"It's funny - we were shopping for back-to-school and my mom was in the aisle skipping and whistling to herself. And I gotta say, I've seen better prices on pencils."