

Fortman Insurance Services



Managing Risks. Protecting Assets.

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Fortman Insurance Services



Managing Risks. Protecting Assets.

News and Information Bulletin

Fall 2014

IMPORTANT NOTICES

OPEN
IMPORTANT
INFO INSIDE

Fortman Insurance Services



Managing Risks. Protecting Assets.

Celebrating 36 Years Serving You!

Open

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

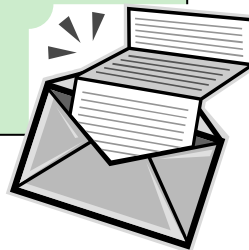
UPCOMING ANNUAL ELECTION PERIODS

HEALTH CARE REFORM (ACA) Annual Election Period

Begins Nov. 15, 2014 - Ends Feb 15, 2015

MEDICARE Annual Election Period

Begins Oct. 15, 2014 - Ends Dec. 7, 2014



TWO LOCATIONS:

Ottawa: 614 N. Perry, St. Rt. 65
419-523-4500
800-686-4500
Fax: 419-523-0045




Bluffton: 115 N. Main St.
419-358-4600
Fax: 419-358-0046

We are here for YOU - Call, E-mail or Stop By - No Cost for a Local Agent!

MEDICARE REMINDERS

Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage Clients

PLEASE REVIEW your ANOC

Annual Election Period (AEP) for 
MEDICARE PART D Prescription Drug Plans and
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE (MAPD) PLANS

Oct. 15 through Dec. 7, 2014 for a
January 1, 2015 effective date.

Medicare Advantage Plans & Part D Drug Plans can
usually only be added or changed during AEP

Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period

Jan. 1 through Feb. 14, 2015 -- DISENROLLMENT of
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS

Reminder: Medicare Supplement Plans are allowed to be
changed anytime throughout the year.

When you receive your Annual Notice of Coverage (ANOC)
from your current Part D or MAPD insurance company:

BE SURE TO REVIEW!

BE SURE YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS are Listed on the 2015
Formulary and take note of any premium, deductible,
copay or co-insurance changes to your plan.
Prescriptions can be removed or changed to a
different Tier each year.

Also Note any changes to PREFERRED Pharmacies.

If you would Like a REVIEW of your plan...
YOU CAN CONTACT US WITH YOUR UPDATED
PRESCRIPTION LISTS by OCT 15, 2014
Email or call with your updated prescription list and please
include your choice of pharmacy.
See FortmanIns.com for email listing.
If you would like a review of your plan, please Email or
call with any questions.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) OPEN ENROLLMENT

Health Insurance Open Enrollment Begins November 15, 2014
and Ends February 15, 2015 

Currently have an ACA Plan for 2014?

If you're enrolled in a 2014 Marketplace plan, your benefit year ends December 31, 2014. To continue health coverage in 2015, you can renew your current health plan or choose a new health plan through the Marketplace during the 2015 Open Enrollment period. **Watch your mail for your ANNUAL NOTICE OF COVERAGE — Plan Designs May Change for 2015.**

If I am currently insured (pre-ACA), will I be required to purchase new health insurance coverage?

All health plans that were in place as of March 23, 2010, and you have not made any changes to, are grandfathered under the law and are considered "qualified coverage." **Any plan not grandfathered may be changed at their renewal in 2014 or 2015 to a plan that meets the government regulations (some extensions have been made, contact our office with questions).**

Must everyone have health insurance? Yes, this provision is called the individual mandate. If you don't have health coverage during 2015, you may have to pay a fee. The fee in 2015 is higher than it was in 2014 — 2% of your income or \$325 per adult/\$162.50 per child, whichever is more.

When can I enroll?

The next Open Enrollment begins November 15, 2014 and ends February 15, 2015. Enrollments, occurring from November 15 through December 15, 2014 will have an effective date of January 1, 2015. Thereafter, effective dates will be affected by the date you sign up (contact Fortman Insurance for more details).

You may also be able to enroll through a **Special Election Period** if you have a Qualifying Life Event such as marriage, birth of child, divorce, loss of group coverage, etc.

A best friend is like a four leaf clover, hard to find, lucky to have. Anonymous

Life isn't measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the number of moments that take your breath away. Anonymous

The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do. Walter Bagehot

The road to success is always under construction. Lilly Tomlin

My wife told me the other day that I don't take her to expensive places anymore, so I took her to the gas station. Anonymous

Even if you stumble, you're still moving forward. Anonymous

We now represent **Allstate Insurance**  You're in good hands.



WOOD BURNING STOVE??

Call Before you Install!

POOLS — above or in-ground??

Call Before you Install!



Insurance companies are beginning to have many requirements for wood burning stoves - such as location, height of stack, etc. and requirements for pools such as steps, gates, diving boards, etc.

Call before you install to find out what your insurance company requires. It May Save You Time & Money!

Ohio Auto & Home Insurance Rates Among Lowest in the Country

A recent Insure.com study found the 2014 average annual premium for an auto policy for a new vehicle in Ohio is the lowest in the country. Lieutenant Governor and Department of Insurance Director Mary Taylor announced Ohio's average auto and homeowner's rate changes for 2013 were smaller than 2012. **Taylor said "rates remain well below the national average saving consumers more of their hard earned dollars."**

Changes in auto rates can be associated with medical costs, weather-related claims, the number of cars on Ohio roads and repair costs. Changes in homeowner's rates can be attributed to weather-related claims, and building and material costs.

www.FortmanIns.com




Our 2015 Calendars are now available! Stop by and pick up yours today!

Age of Roof...

A lot of companies are basing their rates on the age of the roof. Please call us if you have updated your roof in the last 10 years.

We can help you with all Lines of Insurance: Auto, Home, Commercial, Farm, Medical, Life, Long Term Care, Disability Income, Dental, Vision, etc.
Contact one of our offices today -- Stop By, Call or E-mail

MISSION: With the utmost integrity, Fortman Insurance Services provides Clients quality products at the best value to meet their specific needs.

Marla Santomieri joined our agency in September 2013 and works in our Bluffton Office. Marla has worked in the insurance industry for almost 30 years. Marla is a licensed **Property and Casualty Agent.** She resides in Bluffton with her husband Eric. 


Ways to Make Your Home More Secure 
A few simple, low or no-cost measures will significantly deter a would-be thief from targeting your home.

- Make home security a habit: Use door and window locks, close and lock the garage door, do not open the door to uninvited or unwelcome visitors. Secure your home even if you're doing work around the house and yard.
- Organize a burglary: walk through your house for three minutes and find as many small valuables as possible. Then hide them from real burglars.
- Remove the "hidden" house key: everybody hides a house key—problem is, burglars know your hiding places.
- Place keys and garage door remotes in a smart spot.
- Add Foreboding signs: Post security company signs.
- Lock up the ladder
- Light up the outdoors
- Install timers
- Eliminate hiding spots
- Check windows
- Secure air conditioning units—they can be an easy point for a crook.
- Replace weak locks

Car Insurance Requirements in Ohio

Like almost all states, Ohio requires that the **owner** of a motor vehicle maintain a certain amount of insurance coverage on the vehicle, or otherwise demonstrate financial responsibility in case an accident occurs. Most people meet this requirement by carrying a liability insurance policy on the vehicle, but you can also comply by getting a certificate of proof of financial responsibility approved by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Medicare Part D imposes two annual notice requirements on all Employers that offer group health plan coverage with a prescription drug benefit. 

- 1) Employers are required to send participants either a Notice of Creditable Coverage or a Notice of Non-Creditable Coverage, whichever is applicable, by November 15 each year.
 - 2) Employers must also notify the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services about their plan's creditable coverage status no later than the 60th day after the start of each plan year.
- <http://www.cms.gov/creditablecoverage>

EMPLOYERS with GROUP HEALTH PLANS

Summary of Benefits & Coverage (SBC) What is a SBC?

The SBC and Uniform Glossary are meant to help people understand their healthcare coverage and the common terms used by health plans. SBCs must be provided by all insurance companies and group health plans in a standard format and may only be different based on the specific benefits offered by a plan. This standard format will help simplify the process of shopping for and comparing health plans.

When must the SBC be distributed to employees?

Upon application: as soon as possible, but no later than seven business days following receipt of group application.

By the first day of coverage, if changes occurred after application by first day of coverage.

Open enrollment/renewal: If written application required to renew, provide SBC with application material. If no written application required to renew, provide SBC no later than 30 days prior to the first day of the new plan or policy year. For fully insured plans, if policy/cert is not issued or renewed before this 30-day period, provide SBC as soon as possible, but no later than seven business days after issuing new policy/cert or receipt of written confirmation of intent to renew, whichever is earlier.

Upon request for SBC or summary information about a health product: as soon as possible, but no later than seven business days following receipt of request.

We are proud to be a UNITED WAY PACESETTER "Neighbor Helping Neighbor" 

AUTO • HOME • FARM • COMMERCIAL MEDICAL • INDIVIDUAL & GROUP BENEFITS • LIFE • ANNUITY • IRA

SMALL BUSINESSES

The SHOP Marketplace can help small businesses offer affordable coverage to employees. You can enroll in SHOP throughout the year.

- ◆ 50 or fewer full-time equivalent employees.
- ◆ Small employers can claim the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit **only** for coverage purchased through the SHOP Marketplace.
- ◆ To be eligible for the Tax Credit, you must have fewer than 25 Full-Time equivalent employees making an average of about \$50,000 a year or less.
- ◆ The tax credit is worth up to 50% of your contribution toward employees' premium costs (up to 35% for tax-exempt employers).

Hospital Observation Can be Costly for Medicare Patients

Just because you are in the hospital for days, doesn't always mean you were actually admitted. Instead you received observation care, considered by Medicare to be an outpatient service.



Because observation care is provided on an outpatient basis, patients may have co-payments for doctors' fees and each hospital service and they have to pay whatever the hospital charges for any routine drugs the hospital provides that they take at home for chronic conditions.

BE AWARE, ASK QUESTIONS And REMINDER...Maintenance drugs are NOT covered by Medicare when treated as Out-Patient.



HEALTH PLAN RENEWALS

When your Health Plan Renewals, you may be able to stay with your current plan or move to an Affordable Care Act (ACA) plan with a Special Election (does not include Medicare plans).

Each person's circumstances are different. For some, staying with their current health plan may be better, while for others, moving to an ACA plan may be their best option.

Please Contact Our Office to Review Your Health Insurance Renewal.

Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending. Maria Robinson

Life is like a mirror, we get the best results when we smile at it. Anonymous

Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage. Lao Tzu

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened. Dr. Seuss

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving. Albert Einstein

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AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the comprehensive health reform, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), into law, which requires most US citizens and legal residents to have health insurance.

Marketplace Exchanges have been established for individuals and small groups to purchase health insurance.

Ohio has a very competitive market place compared to most other states. Beginning in 2014, tax credits will be available to U.S. citizens and legal immigrants who purchase coverage in the new health insurance exchanges and who have income up to 400% of the federal poverty level. **To be eligible for the premium tax credits, individuals must not be eligible for public coverage - including Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicare, or military coverage - and must not have access to health insurance through an employer.** (There is an exception in cases when the employer plan does not cover at least 60 percent of covered benefits on average or the employee share of the premium exceeds 9.5% of the employee's household income.)

The premium tax credits will vary with income and are structured so that the premium an individual or family will have to pay will not exceed a specified percentage of income, ranging from 2% for those with incomes up to 138% of the poverty level (about \$16,105 for an individual) to 9.5% for those with incomes between 300% and 400% of the poverty level (\$46,680 for an individual).

2014 Federal Poverty Level

| Federal Poverty Guidelines 2014 | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Persons in Household | 2014 Federal Poverty Level for Continental U.S. | Medicaid Eligibility (138% of FPL) | Premium subsidy threshold (400% of FPL) |
| 1 | \$11,670 | \$16,105 | \$46,680 |
| 2 | \$15,730 | \$21,707 | \$62,920 |
| 3 | \$19,790 | \$27,310 | \$79,160 |
| 4 | \$23,850 | \$32,913 | \$95,400 |
| 5 | \$27,910 | \$38,516 | \$111,640 |
| 6 | \$31,970 | \$44,119 | \$127,880 |
| 7 | \$36,030 | \$49,721 | \$144,120 |
| 8 | \$40,090 | \$55,324 | \$160,360 |

Just as Fortman Insurance has done for the last 35 years, we will be here to help you make the best decisions for you and your family.

Please call us at (419)523-4500 in Ottawa or (419) 358-4600 in Bluffton to set an appointment to review all your options.

We have seven licensed health agents available to serve you.

FortmanIns.com



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Must everyone have health insurance?**

Yes, this provision is called the individual mandate.

2. **What is the penalty for those who opt not to get health insurance coverage?**

The penalty for people who decline to purchase health insurance is the greater of two amounts: a specified percentage of income or a specified dollar amount.

| Year | Percentage of Income | Dollar Amount |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2014 | 1% | \$95 |
| 2015 | 2% | \$325 |
| 2016 | 2.5% | \$695 |
| 2017 and beyond | Annual Adjustments | Annual Adjustments |

3. **What are the types of plans that will be offered in the exchange?**

Bronze: benefits equivalent to 60% of the full actuarial value of plan benefits

Silver: benefits actuarially equivalent to 70% of full value,

Gold: benefits actuarially equivalent to 80% of full value, and

Platinum: benefits actuarially equivalent to 90% of full value.

*Actuarial value represents the share of health care expenses the plan covers for a typical group of enrollees. As plans increase in actuarial value -- bronze, silver, gold, and platinum — they would cover a greater share of enrollees' medical expenses overall, though the details could vary across plans.

4. **What types of benefits will be offered?**

Each plan offered on the Marketplace Exchange must have coverage that includes the government's list of "Essential Health Benefits" which consist of at least the following: ambulatory patient services, emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care, mental health benefits and substance use disorder services, prescription drugs, rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices, laboratory services, preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management, and pediatric services including oral and vision care.

5. **When can I enroll?**

The next Open Enrollment begins November 15, 2014 and ends February 15, 2015. Enrollments occurring from November 15 through December 15, 2014 will have an effective date of January 1, 2015. Thereafter, effective dates will be affected by the date you sign up (contact Fortman Insurance for more details). You may also be able to enroll through a **Special Election Period** if you have a Qualifying Life Event such as marriage, birth of child, divorce, loss of group coverage, etc.

6. **If I am currently insured, will I be required to purchase new health insurance coverage?**

All health plans that were in place as of March 23, 2010, and you have not made any changes to, are grandfathered under the law and are considered "qualified coverage". **Any plan not grandfathered may be changed at their renewal in 2014 to a plan that meets the government regulations (Also, see page 1 of newsletter).**

7. **Can I be denied coverage for a pre-existing condition?**

No. Starting in 2014, insurers will no longer be able to turn down adults for coverage due to pre-existing conditions. Factors that determine price for an individual plan will be age, zip code and smoking status. Child only policies as of January 2014 will be available as well.

8. **Who will be eligible for subsidies to make health insurance more affordable?**

The premium tax credits will vary with income and are structured so that the premium an individual or family will have to pay will not exceed a specified percentage of income, ranging from 2% for those with incomes up to 138% of the poverty level (about \$16,105 for an individual) to 9.5% for those with incomes between 300% and 400% of the poverty level (\$46,680 for an individual).

To obtain an estimate on your subsidy, visit <http://kff.org/interactive/subsidy-calculator>