

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is Medicare Advantage?

Medicare Advantage is a federally-sponsored program in which Medicare Part A and B benefits can be provided through a private insurance carrier. Through AEP's new Aetna Group Medicare Advantage plans, you will receive the same benefits and services you currently receive through traditional Medicare plus the additional benefits provided by AEP. You will continue to have access to the same medical providers and the same or better coverage for inpatient and outpatient care.

Medicare Advantage plans may also offer additional benefits, such as health and wellness programs, which are not offered through traditional Medicare. The Medicare Advantage plans which are being offered to you beginning in January 2018 will include many of these benefits.

2. How does Medicare Advantage benefit AEP and its retirees?

The Medicare Advantage program rewards insurers that meet federally mandated goals for healthcare quality and customer service. Insurers who meet or exceed these goals are able to offer Medicare Advantage plans at a lower cost with the same level of benefit.

AEP has determined that the Medicare Advantage plans offered by Aetna will be able to provide equivalent coverage to the existing Maintenance of Benefits (MOB) and Coordination of Benefits (COB) plans at a lower cost for both you and the company.

3. How will my medical plan contributions be impacted?

AEP will continue to calculate the cost of the retiree medical coverage as we have in the past using historical claims and expenses to project future plan costs. Because AEP will be able to offer these new plan options at a lower cost, we are expecting that retiree contributions (for those who have them) will be reduced for 2018. Your personalized monthly premium rates will be included in your annual enrollment packet which will be mailed prior to annual enrollment.

4. Do I still have to pay for my Medicare part B? Is the Medicare Advantage plan secondary to Medicare?

In order to be enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, you must be enrolled in Original Medicare Parts A and B, and continue to pay your part B premiums. The new AEP Group Aetna Medicare Advantage plans will take the place of Original Medicare and become your primary coverage for all of your Medicare Part A and B benefits.

5. Can I use the same doctors and medical facilities I currently use?

Yes. You may use any doctor or medical facility that accepts Medicare patients and do not need a referral to seek care.

6. Can I keep my current plan?

No, the current MOB and COB plans are being discontinued effective January 1st, 2018, and will be replaced by the Group Medicare Standard Plan (MOB equivalent) and the Group Medicare Select Plan (COB equivalent).

7. When is Annual Enrollment for 2018?

Annual Enrollment begins October 25, 2017 and continues until November 16, 2017. You should receive an Annual Enrollment Guide with more information in the middle of October. This guide will include information about all benefits that you are eligible for as an AEP retiree as well as your personalized enrollment worksheet which includes your monthly premium rates.