



"Medicare & You 2002," developed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is a handbook for beneficiaries. This page says where to more information.

Medicare & You 2002

This handbook has important information about:

- Your Medicare benefits.
- Choosing a health plan that's right for you.
- New ways to get information.

How do you find what you need? See page 77.



CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES



Section 7

Information For Your Local Area

Local Medicare Health Plan Information

Starting October 1, 2001, comprehensive information about the Medicare health plans in your area is available through 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Customer service representatives are available 24 hours a day, including weekends, to help with general questions about Medicare, and about Medigap policies, Prescription Drug Assistance Programs and Medicare + Choice plan options in your area.

The customer service representative can mail you detailed information about the Medicare health plans in your area, including:

- Phone numbers, addresses and websites of each local plan
- Monthly premium charged
- Benefits and costs, including extra benefits like prescription drugs
- Plan quality and member satisfaction ratings
- Disenrollment information

The customer service representative can help you narrow down your Medicare health plan choices using a new “Medicare Personal Plan Finder.” This tool is designed to help you focus on the issues most important to you when making a decision about the health plan that is right for you. The customer service representative will mail your personalized results from this tool within three weeks of your call. See pages 28-29 for more information about the “Medicare Personal Plan Finder”. See pages 6-7 for complete information about 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

You can also look at www.medicare.gov on the Web to get all local plan information and use the “Medicare Personal Plan Finder.” See page 8 for more details about what’s available on www.medicare.gov on the Web. These services provide more information than was included in previous versions of the *Medicare & You* handbook.