

BEWARE: MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS ARE NOT THE SAME AS ORIGINAL MEDICARE

September 4, 2008

Dear Patient:

We understand the complex nature of health insurance and that the options now available to you as a Medicare beneficiary have increased. Unfortunately, these new options – known as Medicare Advantage plans – have policy restrictions that are far different than original Medicare coverage. Your doctor and our group have decided to remain a non-contracting provider for Medicare Advantage plans.

As a Medicare beneficiary, you can opt to switch back to original Medicare coverage or remain with your Medicare Advantage plan. We will not be scheduling visits for patients with Medicare Advantage coverage after December 31, 2008. **Unfortunately, we will no longer be able to see you as a patient after December 31, 2008 due to the fact that your current insurance is a Medicare Advantage plan. We will remain available to you until that date.** After that date, you will not be scheduled for an appointment through our office nor will you be authorized to use our practice name or our physicians' when at an emergency facility for treatment. We will transfer your records to a new provider upon receipt of written authorization from you.

Should you elect to switch your coverage to original Medicare, you will be able to continue your care with your physician here at WIMC. You may call the Medicare Service Center at 1-800-Medicare (800-633-4227) with any questions you may have about switching your coverage back to original Medicare. Medicare allows patients to switch back to the original Medicare from November 15th through March 31st.

We regret that this decision has become necessary and thank you for your loyalty to our practice. We will work to make this transition a smooth one for you in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Courtney Denning
Business Services Manager
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