



PAT QUINN
Governor
MICHAEL T. McRAITH
Director

Illinois Department of Insurance

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 12, 2010

CONTACTS:
Anjali Julka (312) 814-0093
Louis G. Pukelis (312) 814-0778

Illinois Department of Insurance Announces Free, One-on-One Medicare Counseling Services

***Volunteers provide help with Medicare options in
Putnam County; pre-registration is encouraged***

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Pat Quinn and the Illinois Department of Insurance announce free, one-on-one counseling services in Putnam County to help educate Medicare-eligible individuals and their caregivers about available insurance options. The Department's Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) is conducting a series of counseling sessions statewide to assist Medicare-eligible individuals with the Medicare open enrollment season, which runs from November 15th through December 31st.

Pre-registration for appointments is encouraged (limited walk-ins are available) by calling the Putnam County Senior Center in Standard at (815) 339-2711. SHIP volunteers are also available year-round to answer Medicare questions. For a list of SHIP volunteers in your area please visit the SHIP website at <http://insurance.Illinois.gov/SHIP> or call SHIP toll-free at (800) 548-9034.

SHIP sessions in Putnam County are scheduled as follows:

**November 15 & November 22
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Putnam County Senior Center
128 First Street
Standard, IL 61320**

Through its staff and a network of hundreds of trained volunteers in more than 180 sites throughout the State, SHIP assists Illinoisans who have questions about or problems with:

- Medicare
- Medicare supplemental insurance
- Medicare Advantage Plans (HMO, PPO, and PFFS)
- Medicare claims and appeals
- Prescription drug coverage through Medicare and other sources
- Long term care insurance

Every SHIP office is volunteer-based and supported by local sponsoring organizations.

For more information about SHIP, including information about SHIP volunteers in your area, please visit the [SHIP Web site](#) or call the SHIP toll-free hotline at (800) 548-9034. You can also visit the Department of Insurance's Web site at www.insurance.illinois.gov or call our toll-free hotline at (866) 445-5364.

###