



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **New Medicare Advantage options available from Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield**

*Medicare-eligible Iowans have until Dec. 7 to enroll*

DES MOINES, Iowa (Nov. 4, 2021) — Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield is currently offering new Medicare Advantage plans for Medicare-eligible Iowans. Blue Medicare Advantage<sup>SM</sup> PPO and HMO plans are available during the annual open enrollment period now through Dec. 7, for coverage that begins Jan. 1, 2022. Wellmark Advantage Health Plan<sup>SM</sup>, Wellmark's new affiliate, is offering the Medicare Advantage plans, also known as Medicare Part C. The plan combines traditional Medicare — parts A and B — into one easy-to-manage plan along with additional health enhancing benefits.

“Our new Blue Medicare Advantage plans are designed with the consumer in mind — starting with \$0 premium plans, broad health care provider networks, and plenty of extra benefits — all backed by a company that has been serving Iowans for more than 80 years,” said Jason Humphrey, Wellmark's vice president of Medicare Advantage. “We have three comprehensive Blue Medicare Advantage plan options available to those newly eligible for Medicare and for individuals interested in switching plans.”

#### **Blue Medicare Advantage HMO<sup>SM</sup>**

Designed for individuals who want the security of a defined maximum out-of-pocket cost, Blue Medicare Advantage HMO is a \$0 premium plan that offers medical and prescription drug coverage. It comes with a \$0 medical deductible and copays for prescription drugs as low as \$0. Blue Medicare Advantage HMO plans are available in 83 of Iowa's 99 counties.

#### **Blue Medicare Advantage PPO<sup>SM</sup>**

For individuals who want out-of-network coverage and the security of defined maximum out-of-pocket cost, with \$0 premium and added benefits, Blue Medicare Advantage PPO is a \$0 premium plan offering medical and prescription drug coverage. It comes with a \$0 medical deductible and copays for prescription drugs as low as \$0. This plan is available in 85 of Iowa's 99 counties.

#### **Blue Medicare Advantage Enhanced PPO<sup>SM</sup>**

Blue Medicare Advantage Enhanced PPO includes all the same great benefits as Blue Medicare Advantage PPO and more, with a \$49 premium. This plan also offers additional benefits and lower out-of-pocket costs. The premium includes higher allowances for dental, vision and hearing, and a personal emergency response service at no additional cost. This plan is also available in 85 of Iowa's 99 counties.

