



To our Village Health Partners patients,

Recently Village Health Partners has made the decision to no longer accept any new patients on a traditional Medicare plan as of January 1, 2019. This effectively means that our existing patients, who can currently age-in to traditional Medicare, will have to choose one of the Medicare Advantage plans VHP accepts after January 1, 2019. The practice has received a large amount of feedback on this new information, which we expected, but we have also realized that we did not do a satisfactory job of communicating the reason behind this change. Our president, Dr. Jamison Albracht, has taken the time to provide additional insight as to why VHP providers believe strongly advocating for Medicare Advantage plans with our patients is the best way to ensure our patients get the most appropriate and affordable care (see below).

Patrick Figures
Chief Operating Officer
Village Health Partners

Dear Valued Patient,

We have received many questions over the past several weeks in regards to what Medicare plans Village Health Partners will be accepting in 2019. We wanted to reach out to our patients to help clear any confusion and address our reasons for not accepting new enrollees of traditional Medicare beginning next year.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has made it a goal to encourage patients who are enrolled in traditional Medicare to transition to a Medicare Advantage plan. The reasons for this include: patients on such plans live on average 2.4 years longer than those on traditional Medicare; patient outcomes are greatly improved; patients' quality of life is better; and resources of care are enhanced. [In a recent study](#), those enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan had 23% fewer inpatient admissions and 33% fewer visits to the emergency department along with a higher utilization of preventative care. We would like for our patients who are enrolled in a Medicare plan to be on a product that allows all of the above as our physicians believe it is a better healthcare delivery system.

As of January 1, 2019, Village Health Partners will no longer be accepting any new Medicare enrollees who elect traditional Medicare with or without a supplemental plan. We are encouraging these patients to consider the optimal Medicare Advantage programs. For many years, our office has only accepted our current patients who transition to traditional Medicare. By making this move we are opening the doors to new patients because of the optimal healthcare delivery they will receive through Medicare Advantage programs.

We are hoping during Medicare Open Enrollment, which runs from October 15 – December 7, that our current patients enrolled in traditional Medicare will consider moving to a Medicare Advantage program; however, we have not made this a requirement to continue their medical care. Patients who choose to remain on traditional Medicare will continue to be seen by the provider of their choice.



A list of accepted plans and a helpful FAQ sheet can be found on our website:

www.villagehealthpartners.com

We'd like to reiterate that our office has licensed insurance agents that we trust to help you find the right Medicare plan that meets your needs ***and will ensure you can continue to use Village Health Partners as your primary care provider.*** There is no financial relationship between VHP and this agency. This referral is for informational purposes only. To get in touch with a licensed insurance agent, please call us at 214-964-0246.

Thank you for trusting us with your health and wellness.

Jamison Albracht, D.O.

President

Village Health Partners