

Medicare 101

Beginning in January 2018, the Bayfield County Elder Benefits Specialist, Sheila Mack, will be providing “Medicare 101” presentations once per month, January through September, throughout Bayfield County. These presentations will introduce you to the basics of Medicare and give you the information you need to know before making any decisions about whether you want to enroll in all parts of Medicare at age 65, some parts of Medicare, or none of them; and the possible consequences of not enrolling when you are first eligible to enroll. You will also learn about the three types of insurance that supplement Medicare because Medicare only pays 80% of hospital and medical costs, and the need for creditable prescription drug coverage either through Medicare Part D or Wisconsin SeniorCare.

If you will be turning 65 this year, attending one of these trainings is strongly encouraged. The time available for the Elder Benefit Specialist to work with you in the office is becoming more and more limited due to the increase in assistance being requested. To provide prompt and efficient service to as many clients as possible, this presentation will provide basic information on Medicare in a group setting rather than one on one in the Elder Benefit Specialist office. This training will give you enough information to understand your options and be ready to make decisions when it is time to do so.

Below is a list of the dates and towns/cities that Medicare 101 presentations will be offered. All presentations will start at 6:00 pm and last up to 2 hours, depending upon the information reviewed and questions asked by those attending the presentation. If you plan to attend, please register by the day before the presentation is held, by calling Karen Bodin at 715-373-6144, ext. 115. Registration is necessary to prepare enough materials for everyone who attends.

January 9, at the Bethesda Lutheran Church in Bayfield, WI

February 13, at the Iron River Community Center in Iron River, WI

March 13, at the Cable Community Center in Cable, WI

April 10, at the Benoit Community Center in Benoit, WI

May 8, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cornucopia, WI

June 12, at the Barnes Town Hall in Barnes, WI

July 10, at the Washburn Public Library in Washburn, WI

August 14, at the Iron River Community Center in Iron River, WI

September 11, at the Drummond Public Library in Drummond, WI