

WASHINGTON- The upcoming "open season" of the Medicare Prescription Drug Program, allowing individuals to switch their current Part D prescription plan to another plan if they so chose starts soon. "Open Season" runs November 15th through December 31st.

There are three reasons to change plans:

1. **Price.** A different plan may be cheaper for the same drugs.
2. **Covered drugs have changed.** Perhaps your current plan has changed its list of covered drugs (the "formulary"), or your prescriptions have changed and you need a plan that covers your new prescriptions.
3. **Cover the donut hole.** If you have high prescription costs, you should purchase a policy that covers the gap from \$2510 to \$5726.25 (total drug costs in 2008).

This year many seniors will again enter a coverage gap, or the so-called "donut hole."

"This is definitely one of the drawbacks of the program, and I sympathize with those facing financial burdens caused by this gap," said Congressman Lee Terry. Terry added, "It is expected that new, approved Nebraska prescription drug plans for 2008 will include several plans that provide drug coverage for generic drugs in the gap, and there will be plans available with gap coverage for generic and formulary drugs."

Congressman Terry is urging anyone who needs help reviewing the plans to contact his Omaha office at: 402-397-9944. Seniors can also call Volunteers Intervening for Equity (VIE), also known as Volunteers Assisting Seniors at: 444-6617.

