



COUNSELORS AND MEDICARE

For resources and more information go to <https://www.amhca.org/advocacy/medicare>

**DID YOU
KNOW? ALL
COUNSELORS
MUST ACT!**

Will You OPT-IN or OPT-OUT of MEDICARE?

Counselors are eligible Medicare providers as of January 1, 2024! This momentous development raises awareness of LMHCs and increases national recognition for LMHCs and mental health access overall.

Now, all Counselors must either OPT-IN or OPT-OUT of Medicare!! If you do not want to accept Medicare, but you do not submit Opt-Out paperwork, YOU COULD BE FINED if you work with potential Medicare recipients. So, as an LMHC you need to decide!

There are TWO WAYS to OPT-IN!

- 1** Enroll to become a Medicare Fee-For-Service provider (Medicare Part B) by completing the Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) provider enrollment process via the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' online application system called PECOS.
- 2** Enroll to become a Medicare Advantage provider through existing private insurance companies (Medicare Part C) by reaching out to the insurance plan or plans you wish to contract with.

**WILL YOU
OPT-IN to be a
Medicare
Provider?**

OR

**WILL YOU
OPT-OUT of
being a
Medicare
Provider?**

If you want to Opt Out of Medicare, Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) are now accepting opt-out affidavits. Be aware, each MAC has its own opt-out affidavit form. The forms cannot be faxed or emailed. They must be physically mailed to the appropriate MAC via CERTIFIED mail.

If you are seeing any Medicare beneficiaries, and you decide to Opt-Out of becoming a Medicare provider, you are also required to enter into a private contract with your Medicare-eligible patient(s).