



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2021

Contact: Joanna Morales, [jm@triagecancer.org](mailto:jm@triagecancer.org),  
310.489.0856

## **New Special Enrollment Period on HealthCare.gov, But Only for a Limited Time**

**Chicago, IL** – People have a new opportunity to enroll in health insurance for 2021 on HealthCare.gov, but only for a limited time. This new enrollment period starts on February 15, 2021 and ends on May 15, 2021.

With job losses continuing to mount amid the COVID-19 resurgence, and millions of people having lost their job-based health insurance since the start of this public health and economic crisis, the Biden Administration has opened up HealthCare.gov to give people who need health insurance a new opportunity to get covered, but they must act quickly.

Health insurance is more affordable than many people think. Nationwide, approximately 75% of current marketplace consumers had plans available for 2021 that cost less than \$50 per month, after financial help. Nearly 9 out of ten marketplace enrollees received financial help that lowered their monthly health insurance premiums last year. Marketplaces provide a critical avenue for individuals diagnosed with cancer to obtain quality, affordable, health insurance coverage and avoid financial toxicity.

**“Anyone who needs health insurance, or who needs to change their health insurance for this year, can do so on HealthCare.gov next month. People do not need to have been impacted by COVID-19 to take advantage of this new opportunity. Anyone in the cancer community that needs coverage can sign up,”** said Monica Bryant, chief operating officer at Triage Cancer.

Consumers enrolling in a plan on HealthCare.gov are guaranteed to receive comprehensive coverage, with no pre-existing condition exclusions or markups. All plans cover essential benefits, including doctor and hospital visits, prescription drugs, mental health treatment, and maternity care. In addition, consumers receive free preventive care services, such as immunizations and health screenings. Testing and treatment of COVID-19 are considered essential health benefits and are covered by all HealthCare.gov plans.

Consumers should avoid insurance plans offered outside of HealthCare.gov that seem too good to be true. “Junk insurance” products pose huge financial risks to consumers. These products can refuse to pay for care for pre-existing conditions, charge consumers more based on their gender, and impose annual coverage limits.

**“On HealthCare.gov consumers are guaranteed to get comprehensive coverage,”** said Joanna Morales, CEO at Triage Cancer. **“We want consumers to understand their options and avoid buying junk plans that likely won’t cover cancer care.”**

The health insurance landscape can be confusing, but Triage Cancer has resources to help you understand your options and pick the best plan for you. Visit <https://TriageCancer.org/health-insurance> for quick guides, checklists, animated videos, and recorded webinars related to health insurance coverage. Log on to HealthCare.gov by May 15 to get the comprehensive health insurance you need.

###

*Triage Cancer is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the radically escalating number of individuals diagnosed with cancer, their families, caregivers, advocates, and health care professional successfully navigate the legal and practical issues that arise.*