

Instructions: 2009 Medicare Advantage Online Plan Comparison

1. Go to **www.medicare.gov** You are now at the home page for Medicare information.
2. Click on “**Compare Health Plans- 2009 Data**” under the Search Tools section.
3. Click on **Find and Compare Plans** on the left hand side.
4. You will probably want to perform a general search, so click on **Begin General Plan Search**.
5. On this screen, you will need to enter the beneficiary’s zip code. You will be asked for an age range and health status, but you do not have to fill out that information. You will also be asked “What type of coverage do you have?” You can click on appropriate choice, or click “I Don’t Know” Finally, you will be asked about the extra help letter. Since you will just be wanting general information, you can click no here and hit **Continue**.
6. This screen will give you information on your options are. Read through and click **Continue**.
7. Here you may choose to enter your ID number and Password if you have this information entered. If you have not entered the drug information and are comparing plan benefits only to chose the Continue to plan List.
 - This screen will show ALL of the Medicare Advantage Plans in your area, including those with and without drug coverage, and special needs plans. At the top of the screen, you can “Select

Criteria to Reduce Number of Plans Shown” by clicking on **Show**, selecting your criteria, then click on **Apply Limits**.

- This list is sorted by the “Estimated Annual Cost for People Like You,” which is an estimate of the average amount you might expect to spend each year for your health and/or drug coverage. You can change the sorting of the plans by making a selection from the drop down list at the top right hand corner of the list and clicking on **Sort**.
- This list will provide you with some basic information on the plans, such as the type of plan, whether or not it provides drug coverage, if it has gap coverage, and whether or not it offers additional benefits.
- You may click on the plan’s name and view the most extensive information about what a beneficiary’s co-pays will be under that plan.
- You may also compare an abbreviated list of co-pays on up to 3 plans by clicking on the box to the left of the plan name and clicking **Compare** at the top of the list. Once this list of 3 appears, you can also then enter the beneficiary’s drugs by clicking **Enter Your Drugs** on the right hand side of the screen. This will compare the cost of the drugs for these 3 plans only.

Note: There are many other features on the website you can explore. These instructions are designed to walk you through the Medicare Advantage Comparison tool.