

# February 2026

Your Resource for Health Insurance, Savings Programs, and Community Events

## *Pennie Open Enrollment Wrap-Up*

The Pennie Open Enrollment period for 2026 ended on January 31. If you wish to enroll in or switch your health insurance plan through Pennie, you must now qualify for a Special Enrollment Period due to certain life events.

Qualifying events include:

- Birth, adoption, or death in the family
- Change in income
- Changes to your employer health plan
- Moving, including relocating to Pennsylvania
- Loss of coverage
- Change in immigration status
- Release from incarceration

## *May – Mental Health Awareness Month*

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, Aging Allies is hosting a Peace of Mind Health Fair on May 7 at the LCCC (Lehigh Carbon Community College) campus in Tamaqua. The event runs from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Join us to learn about mental health services available across Schuylkill and Carbon counties. All attendees will have a chance to win a door prize! Explore clubs, activities, hobbies, and meet supportive organizations dedicated to mental wellness. Mark your calendar for May 7!



## *Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment*

From January 1 to March 31, individuals with a Medicare Advantage Plan have the opportunity to switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan or return to Original Medicare. Note: This period does not allow switching from Original Medicare to an Advantage Plan.

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## *Pace / Pace Net Savings Program*

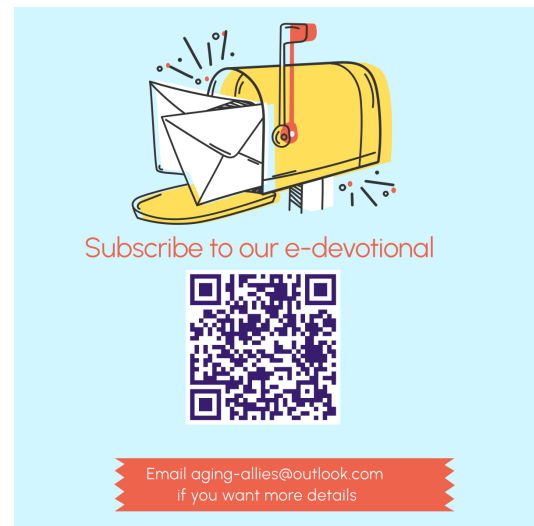
Pace and Pace Net, funded by the Pennsylvania Lottery, help lower prescription costs for eligible residents. If you're single with an annual income under \$33,500, or married with income under \$41,500, you may qualify. Resources are not counted. Qualifying for Pace/Pace Net also provides a Special Enrollment opportunity to join a Medicare Advantage plan or switch your prescription drug plan, further lowering your out-of-pocket medication expenses.

## *Important Update: Service Fee Change*

*Starting February 1, a \$35.00 fee will be charged for assistance with Financial Assistance applications (to reduce medical bills), patient assistance programs (to lower medication costs), or other income-based applications that require Aging Allies to print and mail documentation. This fee covers all costs related to the application process, including preparation, submission, and follow-up to ensure you get the determination you need.*

## **Sign up for our e-devotional, *Finding Hope in Government Health Insurance***

This devotional was inspired by the many stories people share with us about their struggles with their government health insurance. Many feel isolated in these difficulties. We aim to provide relevant topics and thoughtfully connect them to God's Word. Oftentimes, many of us overlook the power God has in our lives. We suspect He is not listening or is distant from our issue. We, at Aging Allies, want this devotional to be used as a gentle reminder that God is still with you and you are not alone.



## Pennie Reminder:

Withdrawals from any IRA, 401 (k), capital gains, or investments in 2026 must be reported on your tax return as income, which may affect the amount of premium tax credits you receive. You should report this adjusted income within 30 days so your Pennie application can be updated. If you get excess tax credits, you'll need to repay them when filing your 2026 taxes.

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