**SHARE YOUR STORY**

***We want to hear from our beneficiaries. Tell us how your Medicare and Medicaid coverage has improved your life.***

For 50 years, Medicare and Medicaid have been changing the lives of Americans by providing the peace of mind that comes with health care that’s there when you need it. These programs save lives, help people live longer, and keep families strong.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is looking for stories about how these programs have changed the lives of Americans across the nation.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **First Name:** |  | **Last Name:**  |  |
| **Birth Date:**  |  | **Mailing Address:** |  |
| **Email Address:** |  | **Phone:** |  |

 ***4 Steps to Share Your Story***

**1. TELL US.** Whether you’ve just enrolled in coverage or you’ve been a beneficiary for years, we’re interested in hearing your story. Tell us how your Medicare or Medicaid coverage has impacted your life or the life of someone in your family.

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 **2. SHOW US.** While this is optional, we love it when we can put a face with a name! If possible, include a photo with your story. Send along a photo of you with your family or a photo of you leading a healthy and active lifestyle. Please include as an electronic attachment.

**3. GIVE US PERMISSION.** By sharing your story, you give consent to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services permission to share your story publicly solely for the purposes of carrying out the CMS mission. Please also fill out the release form (Form CMS-20006).

**4. SUBMIT YOUR STORY.**When complete, email your story to **50thAnniversary@cms.hhs.gov****.**

*For additional information about our story collection effort,*

*contact Shannon Ingram at* *Shannon.Ingram@cms.hhs.gov**.*

***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR*STORY COLLECTION**

**Why are we collecting stories?** This July we will celebrate the 50 year anniversary of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. As part of our anniversary celebration, we hope to remind the nation of the important role Medicare and Medicaid play in protecting the health and well-being of millions of families. 90 million Americans depend on Medicare or Medicaid for their health coverage, but every one of them has a unique story about the impact their health coverage has had on their life – or the life of someone they know and love. We want to hear your story.

**Why stories are important?** Personal stories play an important role in bringing public policy to life. They show how our health care programs change the lives of families and impact communities across the country.

**How will the stories we collect be used?** In the coming months, we plan to share beneficiary stories in a number of ways. Some stories will be used to help bring life to speeches and content on our websites. Some beneficiaries will be invited to share their stories at events or be interviewed for videos. In addition, as part of our effort to celebrate the 50th Anniversary, we would like to display stories at the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. **Before we use your story, we’ll contact you to get your permission and to make sure you’re comfortable with how it will be used.**

**Where can you get additional information?** If you have questions about our story collection – or would like to know more about our 50th Anniversary Celebration – contact Shannon Ingram at Shannon.Ingram@cms.hhs.gov.

