
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE NEWS

◆ **For both fee-for-service Medicare and Medicare Advantage (MA) plans alike, more than 94% of seniors surveyed say they are satisfied with their coverage,** according to a new survey by Silverlink Communications and Suffolk University. Out of the 2,600 seniors surveyed, 55% say they believe their health plan benefits will stay the same, and 33% think that their benefits will get worse, the researchers found. As a result, 85% reported that they are not considering switching health plans, Silverlink said. "We expect a very vocal Medicare population in October when the 11 million beneficiaries in Medicare Advantage start getting information on how their benefits and premiums will change in 2010," Donna

Burtanger, senior director of Medicare solutions at Silverlink, said in a prepared statement. "Our work with Medicare plans confirms that significant changes to rates and plan structure are in store for many beneficiaries.... It is clear that most Medicare beneficiaries don't expect the changes that are coming for the 2010 plan year," she added. The survey warned that these circumstances could lead to an extremely tumultuous open-enrollment period when Medicare recipients, who indicated that out-of-pocket costs are the most important criteria for choosing a plan, are likely to be shocked and anxious over rate increases and other plan changes. Visit www.suffolk.edu/research/37139.html.