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NEWS RELEASE

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CMS TO PROCESS SOME MEDICARE ENROLLMENTS AFTER DEADLINE

High call volumes and downed website cited as reason

BOISE ID (December 7, 2011) – The deadline for Medicare benefit plan enrollment is tonight at midnight. However, the Idaho Department of Insurance wants senior citizens to know that enrollment requests submitted during the annual election period will still be processed through midnight Saturday, December 10.

Department Director Bill Deal says, "Some people had difficulty accessing the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) online enrollment center. Others have not had calls returned due to high call volumes."

CMS issued a statement to Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) offices advising them that the backlog of enrollment requests will continue to be processed after the official deadline.

Senior citizens who need assistance in completing enrollment in Medicare benefit plans should call CMS directly at 800-633-4227. The Department's SHIBA staff may be reached at 800-247-4422. Consumers may also continue to work with their individual insurance producers.

About the Department of Insurance
The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.

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