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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 23, 2009

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***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Illinois Department of Insurance to Host Free Seminar on 2010 Medicare Program

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Insurance’s Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) will host a free seminar explaining the basics of Medicare, including options available to Medicare-eligible individuals and an update on the 2010 Medicare program. The Department is conducting a series of counseling sessions statewide to assist Medicare-eligible individuals with the Medicare open enrollment season, which runs this year from November 15th through December 31st. SHIP provides free, one-on-one counseling services year-round at local sites and homes throughout Illinois to help educate Medicare eligible individuals and their caregivers about available insurance options. For a list of local SHIP volunteers please visit the SHIP [website](http://www.insurance.illinois.gov) or call SHIP toll-free at (800) 548-9034. Further information is also available at www.insurance.illinois.gov.

SHIP staff will provide information on:

- Medicare
- Medicare supplemental insurance
- Medicare Advantage Plans (HMO, PPO, and PFFS)
- Medicare claims and appeals
- Prescription drug coverage through Medicare and other sources
- Long term care insurance

WHAT: Free SHIP seminar on 2010 Medicare program

WHO: Illinois Department of Insurance, Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)

WHEN: **Saturday, October 24, 2009 -- 5:30 p.m.**

WHERE: Blessed Sacrament Catholic School - Gymnasium
1725 South Walnut Street, Springfield

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