

Anna Moorman Recognized by Anthem for Medicare Sales



Anna Moorman

[Anna Moorman](#) has been recognized for Medicare supplement sales in 2020 by Anthem, one of the largest Medicare supplement carriers in the state of Maine.

Anna is one of two agents at Allen Insurance and Financial who specialize in the complex market of Medicare insurance, working with a number of insurance carriers to give customers a range of choices to suit their needs. Moorman has been with Allen Insurance and Financial since 2012.

This is the sixth consecutive year that Moorman has received an award from Anthem for Medicare sales; for 2020 she was named one of Anthem's top 20 sales leaders in Maine.

Anna and her colleague [Jo-Ann Neal](#) have a goal of simplifying the process of enrolling in a Medicare supplement plan, by providing dedicated, one-on-one attention to their customers, assessing each person's needs and finding options that will align with their budget and healthcare goals.

More information about Allen Insurance and Financial's Medicare-related services: AllenIF.com/Medicare

March 2021 Benefits Buzz: Temporary COVID-19 Relief for Section 125 Plans

This month's Benefits Buzz discusses the temporary COVID-19 relief for Section 125 plans and the withdrawal of proposed regulations regarding wellness program incentives. Our benefits division is happy to share this valuable resource. [Click here for the PDF.](#)

Why Should Your Insurance Agent Review Your Business Contracts?



By Chris Richmond

Originally Submitted to [WorkBoat Magazine](#)

Clients often ask us to review contracts they are preparing to sign. This is actually the most important part because after they sign a contract there is not much point in our reviewing it. One of the first things we tell them is that we are not lawyers and they should call their own attorney – but we are happy to review the insurance portions. Aside from limits of liability and mandatory coverages, nine times out of 10 there are three requirements which can significantly change their insurance coverage.

Hold Harmless: Commonly added to insurance clauses in contracts, this essentially promises to hold harmless from any and all claims the company you are doing business with. This provides a very broad exemption of liability and often can be reworded more favorably to include “in conjunction with your work under this contract.” You should also demand the contract is reciprocal to both parties and that the other party holds you harmless, as well.

Waiver of Subrogation: Another common condition added to contracts, this essentially prevents your insurance company from collecting from the other party if they were negligent in the claim. If your insurance company pays for damage done to your vessel by the other party in the contract, a Waiver of Subrogation prevents the insurance company from suing the other party in the contract to recoup their payment. Again, if this is required, make sure the other party waives subrogation, as well.

Additional Insured: This clause allows the other party to share your liability limits if they are named in a claim related to the work being done in the contract. This means the liability limits are now cut in half, reducing your overall coverage limits – and that the other party in the contract is now getting liability coverage for free. We are seeing this requested more often these days and often an underwriter will want to know the

relationship between the two parties, to explain the need to be added as additional insured.

Contracts are part of doing business and can be as simple or as complicated as the parties involved require. When it comes to the insurance language in your contracts, be sure to reach out to your agent for a thorough review and advice on what you are about to sign.

Tax Season Scam Alert

With tax season upon us, many of us are busy gathering the appropriate documents, meeting with CPAs, and ensuring that relevant tax deadlines are met. But in all the hustle and bustle, taxpayers also need to keep an eye on the risks, especially tax season scams. Each year, scammers get more savvy with strategies they use to gain access to other people's personal information and money. To help you steer clear of this year's top scams, learn red flags to watch out for—along with some timely tax-filing reminders.

“Ghost” Tax Return Preparers

One truly frightening scam haunting taxpayers is the ghost preparer. These preparers remain hidden from the IRS by not signing returns, making the returns appear to be self-prepared. In cases where the individual e-files, the ghost preparer will refuse to digitally sign the return. The result can be disastrous for taxpayers, leaving them open to serious filing mistakes, tax fraud, penalties, and audit by the IRS.

Red flags. To help avoid this issue, be in the know when it

comes to red flags surrounding ghost preparers. They usually:

- Don't sign the return with a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN) (The PTIN is required by law for anyone who is paid to prepare or assist in preparing a federal tax return.)
- Lure clients in with the promise of big refunds (Unfortunately, these scammers will resort to claiming fake deductions to boost the size of the refund.)
- Require payment in cash
- Have refunds directed into their bank accounts, not the taxpayer's

Pro tip. If you're looking for someone to prepare your taxes, the IRS has a great online resource that offers a tool for checking your tax preparer's credentials and tips for avoiding potential tax scammers. No matter who prepares your return, it's important to review it carefully, including the routing and banking numbers if you're receiving your refund via direct deposit.

New Round of COVID-19 Scams

As the coronavirus continues to spread, so do scams, unfortunately. Criminals often try to exploit taxpayers during times of uncertainty, and this pandemic has been no exception. The latest COVID-19 scams center around the most recent round of stimulus payments. They have taken on a few forms, all with the singular goal of stealing taxpayers' money and personal information.

Red flags. The IRS Criminal Investigation division has compiled a list of the latest COVID-19 scams. Here's what to be on the lookout for:

- Text messages asking you to disclose bank account information in order to receive the \$1,200 economic stimulus

- Emails, letters, and social media messages that use “coronavirus,” “COVID-19,” and “stimulus” in different ways, requesting personal information and financial account information (e.g., account numbers and passwords)
- Sale of fake at-home COVID-19 test kits
- Fake donation requests for individuals, groups, and areas heavily affected by COVID-19
- “Opportunities” to invest in companies developing COVID-19 vaccines, which also promise these companies will drastically increase in value as a result

Pro tip. If you receive unsolicited emails or social media attempts that are aimed at gathering your personal information and appear to be from the IRS or an organization linked to the IRS, forward the message to phishing@irs.gov.

Online Identity Theft

One of the most common tax scams remains personal identity theft, which is particularly rampant during tax season. Why? By accessing the social security numbers, addresses, and birth dates of unsuspecting taxpayers, scammers can file phony tax returns and steal refunds. The worst part is this can all be done before the victims even know their identities have been stolen.

Red flags. So, what can you do to help ensure that someone doesn’t file a return in your name? Know the warning signs of this pervasive scam:

- If you receive an IRS notice regarding a duplicate return, that you received wages from somewhere you never worked, additional taxes are owed, the refund will be offset, or collection actions are being taken against you for a year you did not file a tax return, contact the IRS immediately.
- As noted above, ensure that your tax preparer has the

appropriate credentials.

- Unless there is a valid reason, don't give out your social security number—and always know who you're giving it to.

Pro tip. The best way to avoid this scam is to file your taxes early, before a scammer can access your information. You might also think about using an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) to proactively protect yourself from identity theft. The IP PIN is a six-digit number known only to you and the IRS that can be used to help the IRS verify your identity when a paper or electronic tax return is filed.

Never Has the IRS Ever . . .

When it comes to tax scams, one of the most important things to know is how the IRS does (and doesn't) contact taxpayers. Here are some things the IRS just won't do:

- Demand that you pay taxes without the opportunity to question or appeal the amount it says you owe
- Call to demand you make an immediate payment using a specific method (e.g., prepaid debit card, gift card, or wire transfer)
- Threaten to bring in local police, immigration officers, or other law enforcement to arrest you for not paying (Threats are a common tactic used by scammers.)

So, if you get a call or email that sounds like any of the above, it's likely a scam. For steps to take if you suspect fraudulent tax activity, visit the IRS's Report Phishing and Online Scams page.

Scams Don't End with Tax Season

Although the focus here is on tax season, we would all be wise to remember that new scams are popping up every day, year-round. So, remain vigilant in keeping your personal information safe and be on the lookout for potential scams.

This material has been provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute either tax or legal advice. Although we go to great lengths to make sure our information is accurate and useful, we recommend you consult a tax preparer, professional tax advisor, or lawyer.

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Insurance Coverage for Construction Risk

[By Patrick Chamberlin](#)

As a contractor, you work hard every day – for your customers and to grow your business. [Specifically designed insurance solutions](#) can protect those efforts.

You start with General Liability, which covers you for claims involving bodily injuries and property damage resulting from your products, services or operations, resulting from your negligence. Then we recommend you build a more complete policy from there.

Among the coverages you should consider:

- **Builders Risk:** Carried by either the property owner or the contractor, this insures a project (property) during construction.
- **Workers Compensation:** A state-mandated coverage in Maine, designed to cover costs when a worker is injured on the job. Subcontractors need their own coverage or an approved

predetermination of independent contractor status form.

- **Commercial Property:** This coverage pays to replace or repair the insured value of tools and equipment that are owned or have been borrowed or leased in the event of damage due to a covered peril, such as a fire or theft.
- **Errors & Omissions:** This coverage can protect the value of your work if it is damaged due to unintentional faulty workmanship.
- **Commercial Auto:** This coverage is designed for vehicles used for business purposes. Coverage for hired and non-owned vehicles should also be considered.

It is important to regularly meet with an independent insurance agent to review your exposures and make sure that your policy will respond as expected.

Individual Health Insurance Enrollment: February to May 2021

In response to the COVID-19 emergency, President Biden signed an executive order reopening HealthCare.gov for a special, three-month enrollment period starting on Feb. 15 and ending on May 15, 2021.

This means anyone – Americans without health insurance as well as those who have already enrolled in a HealthCare.gov plan for 2021 – all have a chance to check out their health insurance marketplace options offered through the Affordable Care Act,

also known as Obamacare, outside the regular Nov. 1 through Dec. 15 period.

Traveling? Protect Your Vacation Investment with Trip Insurance

For many, a family vacation is a special occasion – and never more so in 2021, when such trips are investments which need protection.

A trip insurance policy covers the non-refundable costs of your trip if you're unable to take your vacation or have to interrupt your trip and come home early. The coverage automatically embeds some extras like medical coverage, lost baggage, and missed connection benefits.

Many people are asking about travel during the COVID-19 pandemic and the "Cancel for Any Reason" benefit.

A "Cancel for Any Reason" benefit is an upgrade which requires purchase of a Preferred-level plan and carries additional cost. It is important to note that this benefit must be purchased within 10 days of making your initial trip deposit for any aspect of your trip, be it lodging, a car rental or reservations for travel.

A "Cancel for any Reason" benefit allows you to cancel for any reason not listed on the Certificate of Coverage and you'd receive a 75% refund of your insured amount. Cancellation due to

travel restrictions or other circumstances related to the Coronavirus are not a covered reason to cancel under these plans unless you have the “Cancel for Any Reason” benefit. However, illness, as certified by a doctor, may be a covered reason for cancellation.

It is also important to read your plan documents carefully and be aware that this benefit is not available to residents of New Hampshire, New York and Washington.

For more information, click over to [AllenIF.com/trip](https://www.AllenIF.com/trip)

Insurance for Your Private Vacation Home Rental

Growth in private vacation home rentals has been explosive and Maine is a top vacation destination. With short-term private home rentals in high demand, homeowners are contemplating renting their properties to generate additional income.

This is where rental property insurance, also sometimes called landlord insurance, comes in, to help cover the unique risks taken in renting out your home or condo for long periods of time.

This coverage includes property damage, liability costs and loss of rental income for landlords renting their property. Whether you are renting your house, a vacation home or an investment property, **rental property insurance is an important safeguard against the financial risk associated with tenants living on your property.**

Before you rent your property, give your account executive a call. We're here to help.

HCR: Employer Reporting of Health Coverage – Code Sections 6055 & 6056

The ACA created reporting requirements under Code Sections 6055 and 6056, which took effect in 2015. Under these rules, certain employers must provide information to the IRS about the health coverage they offer to their employees. Employers will use Forms 1094-B & 1095-B for Section 6055 reporting, and Forms 1094-C & 1095-C for Section 6056 reporting. This ACA Overview summarizes these reporting rules. [Read more in this bulletin.](#)

Benefits Buzz from Allen Insurance and Financial – February 2021

This month's Benefits Buzz discusses the employee benefits provisions contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act and the 2020 calendar year ACA reporting deadlines in early 2021. [Benefits Buzz Newsletter – February 2021](#)