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Subject: Medicare Parts A & B Costs in 2016

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Medicare Parts A & B costs in 2016

Last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the final cost structure for Parts A & B. Our handy cost-sharing chart breaks down what your clients will pay, including who is subject to the \$121.80 Part B premium.

Download

Nov. 18, 2015

Promising practice: Increasing intra-agency referrals

If you work in an agency with multiple programs, are you maximizing your internal connections to help clients across different issue areas? Read how one of our Benefits Enrollment Centers, Adelante Development Center, connected to its assistive technology program to increase intra-agency referrals for benefits outreach and enrollment.

[Learn more](#) | [Find other promising practices](#)

Congress proposes to cut SHIP funding

Congress recently passed the Balanced Budget Act of 2015, but is still in the process of drafting appropriations levels. Proposals on the table include a possible 42% reduction in funding for State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs), calling for only \$30 million in FY16. With 3.4 million client contacts in 2014, this would mean a drastic reduction in counseling support for Medicare beneficiaries.

[Find out more](#)

About the SNAP standard medical expense deduction

Following questions from some of our grantees, we contacted USDA to see if the standard medical expense deduction for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits applies at the individual or household level. USDA clarified that the deduction applies to the household. However, if medical expenses exceed the standard, a household or individual can claim actual expenses. Learn more in our fact sheet and past webinar.

[Get the facts](#) | [Access our SNAP medical deduction webinar](#)

What is reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities?

An audit by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has stated that Social Security disability programs “... are out of sync with modern concepts of disability. Modern concepts focus on an individual’s functional abilities in the workplace environment with reasonable accommodations.” In response, Social Security is seeking public comments by Dec. 1 to determine if reasonable accommodations should be considered in the adult disability benefits determination process.

Share your thoughts

Register...

- **Current Trends in Benefits Access**, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. ET: Register for this webinar that looks at enrollment trends and availability of core benefits, and what your clients may face in 2016.

Check out these resources...

- **Before You Claim—Planning for Retirement:** Check out a new resource from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to assess what your/your clients’ Social Security retirement benefits may be, depending on when you retire. The tool is also available in **Spanish**.
- **Medicare Savings Program (MSP) Enrollment Data:** Use our newest visualization tool to find out who’s enrolled in Medicaid and MSPs in your state and county.

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