

From: NCOA Center for Benefits Access <centerforbenefits@ncoa.org>

To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov

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Subject: Extra Help eligibility in 2017

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Extra Help eligibility in 2017

We've updated our eligibility table for the Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS/Extra Help) for 2017 following the release of the new federal poverty guidelines and an earlier resource memo from CMS.

[Download](#)

Feb. 15, 2017

A losing proposition? Drawing Social Security early to get benefits

After hearing about a client in Connecticut who was denied enrollment into a Medicare Savings Program (MSP) because he wasn't drawing early Social Security, we clarified the guidance on this matter with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Our latest blog post examines how policy varies from state to state, and what you can do to help clients facing similar determinations.

[Read the blog](#)

CMS releases 2016 preventive service utilization data

More than 40 million Medicare beneficiaries used at least one free preventive service in 2016. That's according to new information released by CMS, which also noted that over 4.9 million seniors and people with disabilities received discounts on their

prescription drugs in the coverage gap last year worth over \$5.6 billion (or averaging \$1,149 per beneficiary).

[Learn more](#) | [Get state-by-state preventive service utilization data](#)

Protecting older adults from tax overpayment

The IRS has prepared a special guide for the Senate Special Committee on Aging to help seniors maximize their income tax returns and avoid paying more taxes than necessary. The guide includes helpful information on taking advantage of tax credits, and how seniors can deduct out-of-pocket spending on medical and dental bills.

[Download & share the guide](#)

Participate...

- **Medicare & hospital transitions**, Feb 28 at 3 p.m. EST: Join special guests from the Medicare Rights Center for this webinar reviewing Medicare's rules around hospital discharge planning and transitions from hospitals to home/other facilities.

Check out these resources...

- **3 tips for QMBs wrongfully billed for Medicare costs**: Read the advice from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for how Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries can respond when pressed to pay cost-sharing by Medicare providers.
- **BenefitsCheckUp® resource library**: Our redesigned website features a resource library where you can quickly find information about specific categories of programs in your state.

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NCOA | 251 18th Street South | Suite 500 | Arlington, VA 22202