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**Subject:** Unlocking the Door to Veterans' Benefits

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***April 1, 2015***

**Webinar series: Counseling veterans on benefits**

Join us this spring for a two-part webinar series on veterans' benefits. Our April 21 webinar will feature Bobby Ehrig of the San Antonio Coalition for Veterans & Families talking about the kinds of veterans' benefits and health coverage and how they work with Medicare. On May 19, Jennifer Morgan of the Utah Aging and Disability Resource Center and Bret Hicken of the Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Western Region will detail their partnership to provide options counseling to rural veterans.

[Register for the April webinar](#) | [Register for the May webinar](#)

**NASUAD publishes online training module for MIPPA**

The National Association of States United for Aging and Disability (NASUAD) has released an online training course called *The Role of MIPPA: Helping Older Adults & Individuals with Disabilities*. The course provides participants with information about the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA), the Medicare program, Medicare low-income subsidies, and key referral resources for additional program information and enrollment assistance. This training course may be especially beneficial to aging and disability Information & Referral specialists in their service to seniors, caregivers, and persons with disabilities.

[Access the MIPPA module online](#) | [Get MIPPA resources](#)

**CMS releases hospice drug information and PA form**

Last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released Hospice Information for Medicare Part D Plans. It includes the new standard Prior Authorization (PA) form to facilitate coordination between Part D sponsors, hospices, and prescribers.

[Get the CMS publication](#)

**House passes Medicare physician reform bill**

Last week, the House voted 392-37 to pass a Medicare bill (H.R. 2) that would

permanently reform and avoid future cuts to physician payments. It also would make permanent the Qualifying Individual (QI) program, which pays Part B premiums for certain low-income beneficiaries, and extend for 2 years low-income outreach and enrollment funding at higher levels. About half of the \$70 billion in offsets come from increases in beneficiary out-of-pocket costs, primarily premiums for higher-income beneficiaries. And starting in 2020, it would prohibit beneficiaries from purchasing Medigap policies that cover the Part B deductible. NCOA will continue to work with the Senate to improve the bill for low-income beneficiaries before the next vote in mid-April.

[Read our letter to the House](#)

### **Learn about LI NET**

The Limited Income NET Program (or LI NET) ensures that individuals with Medicare's low-income subsidy (LIS), or "Extra Help," who are not yet enrolled in a Part D prescription drug plan are still able to obtain immediate prescription drug coverage. LI NET is administered by Humana, which maintains a library of resources that explain the program, including fact sheets for beneficiaries.

[Find LI NET information](#)

### ***Did you miss this?***

[Benefits 101](#)—Find updated fact sheets and PowerPoint presentations you can use in training staff and volunteers.

[State-by-state Utilization of Free Preventive Services](#)—See the latest numbers in your state in 2014 in this chart from CMS.

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