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Subject: Part B premiums in 2017: Who pays what

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Part B premiums: Who pays what

Confused about what your clients may pay for their Part B premium in 2017? For the first time ever, the premium amount varies by individual. Learn more in our updated fact sheet.

[Find out more](#)

Dec. 14, 2016

Help for your QMB clients facing balance billing

Individuals enrolled in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program are not required to pay Medicare cost-sharing, such as Medicare Parts A and B deductibles. However, some providers continue to inappropriately bill and collect the Medicare cost-sharing amounts from QMBs. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to mitigating this problem through outreach to beneficiaries and providers.

[Read about recent CMS outreach efforts](#)

Strategies to simplify SNAP for seniors

Eligible older adults are the population least likely to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). By leveraging federal policy options, including the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP) and the Standard Medical Deduction (SMD), states can increase senior SNAP enrollment. A new “cheat sheet” document from NCOA and Benefits Data Trust outlines the basic components of ESAP and SMD, and lists which states have implemented these options.

[Learn more](#)

Open Enrollment has ended...now what?

The Annual Enrollment Period for Medicare health and drug plans has closed, but your clients still may be able to switch coverage if they qualify for certain Special Enrollment Periods (SEPs), or take advantage of the Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period (Jan. 1 – Feb. 14). Learn about how these periods work in our updated fact sheets.

[Discover SEPs for MA plans and Part D plans](#) | [Understand the MA Disenrollment Period](#)

CR keeps programs funded through April

Before leaving for its winter break, Congress passed another Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the federal government and its programs until April 28, 2017. Most programs, including the State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs), are basically funded in the CR at the FY16 level, except for a nominal across-the-

board cut of less than one percent to keep the overall total under the budget cap. Despite the delay in providing final FY17 funding for many government programs, the CR allowed full-year funding to be allocated for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

Did you miss these resources?

- **SSDI Medicare Visualization:** Discover how many people in your community receive Medicare because of Social Security Disability Insurance in this new map using data from the Social Security Administration.
- **Medicare and hospital discharge planning:** Learn what your clients can expect prior to transitioning from the hospital to home/another facility in these resources developed for us by the Medicare Rights Center.
- **7 disaster assistance programs:** Affected by the recent wildfires, floods or tornadoes? Learn about disaster benefits that may be available in your area.
- **Updated MSP Enrollment Map:** Use our updated visualization tool to see how enrollment in Medicare Savings Programs has evolved in your state/county between 2007 and 2015.

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