

TO: Local District Commissioners

FROM: Judith Arnold
Director, Division of Coverage and Enrollment

SUBJECT: Enrollment in Medicare Part B

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Local District Support Unit
Upstate (518)474-8887 NYC (212)417-4500

This Department has identified several thousand Medicaid recipients who have Medicare Part A, but are not enrolled in Medicare Part B. Enrollment in Medicare is a condition of eligibility for Medicaid. In an effort to provide this benefit to eligible Medicaid recipients, this Department will begin a project to enroll eligible Medicare/Medicaid recipients in Medicare Part B. This will provide additional cost savings to the Medicaid program when claims are paid by Medicare rather than Medicaid. By adding eligible individuals to the Medicare Savings Program, there will be no cost to the recipient. Some Medicaid recipients who have Medicare Part A, but not Part B have encountered problems accessing drugs that should be covered by Part B. Enrollment in Part B will provide access to those drugs that are covered by Part B, but not Part D. In addition, individuals who are enrolled in both Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B have the option of enrolling in a Medicare Advantage Plan or a Medicaid Advantage Plan.

This Department will select individuals who are identified as currently active on Medicaid, have Medicare Part A, but not Part B, and meet the income requirements for the Medicare Savings Program as a QMB. The State will accrete such individuals to the Medicare Buy-In for enrollment in Part B and payment of their Medicare Part B premium. These individuals will receive a notice entitled ADDITIONAL BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT NOTICE (copy attached). As this process will require a manual review of the MBL budget, cases will be added by the State as time allows.

This process is not meant to replace the local district's responsibility to accrete eligible individuals to the Medicare Buy-In system. At application or renewal, cases identified as being eligible for the Medicare Savings Program must be enrolled. As a reminder, individuals who already have Part A, do not have to go to Social Security to enroll in Medicare Part B. Part B Buy-In accretion through eMedNY enrolls an individual in Medicare Part B, and also pays the Part B premium.



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner

Wendy E. Saunders
Chief of Staff

ADDITIONAL BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT NOTICE

This letter is to notify you that you are entitled to Medicare Part B benefits.

New York State Social Services Law §366(2)(b)(1) states that any Medicaid recipient who is eligible for benefits under title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act (Medicare) shall be required to apply for and fully utilize such benefits.

Our files show that you have both Medicare Part A and Medicaid. If you think this information is wrong, call your Medicaid eligibility worker at your county Department of Social Services. In New York City, call (877) 472-8411.

The New York State Medicaid program will enroll you in Medicare Part B, effective _____. We will pay your Medicare Part B premium, which is currently \$96.40, every month as long as you remain eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

Services covered by Medicare Part B include outpatient hospital services, physician services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment and preventive services, such as tests and screenings. Information about your coverage under Medicare Part B can be found in the **Your Medicare and You Handbook** or you can go online at www.medicare.gov.

You will receive a new Medicare card from the Social Security Administration showing your Part A and Part B effective dates. You will need to show any medical provider a copy of your Medicare card and your Medicaid card when receiving services. If you want the Medicaid program to pay the coinsurances and deductibles for Medicare covered services, you must use providers that are enrolled in the Medicaid program. The Medicaid program will continue to cover medical services not covered by Medicare.

If you have any questions about Medicare, call 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227). If you have any questions about Medicaid, call your local Medicaid office, or in New York City, call 1-877-472-8411.