

*My Health.
My Medicare.*

GUIDE TO CMS, SSA AND PLAN MAILINGS
SUMMER AND FALL 2006

MAILING	BENEFICIARY ACTION NEEDED
<p><u>Social Security Letter to Review Eligibility for Extra Help and Enclosed Eligibility Form</u> SSA Pub. No L1026</p> <p>End of August, Social Security mailed letters to people who applied and qualified for extra help prior to May 2006 to see if they qualify in 2007. Includes a tip sheet, "Helping People with Medicare Apply for Extra Help Tip Sheet."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If this information is correct or if your income or resources are less than the amount shown, you do not need to do anything. • If the information is not correct, return the enclosed form in the enclosed postage paid envelope or call Social Security toll free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).
<p><u>Loss of Deemed Status Letter</u> (White Letter) (Pub. No. 11198)</p> <p>September 2006, CMS, in coordination with Social Security, mailed loss of help notices to people who no longer automatically qualify for extra help as of January 1, 2007. Includes a tip sheet, "Loss of Deemed Status Beneficiary Tip Sheet."</p> <p>Main Message: Loss of Extra Help</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for Extra Help through Social Security (application and postage paid envelope enclosed) or a State Medical Assistance (Medicaid) office.
<p><u>Change in Extra Help Copayment Letter</u> (Pub. No. 11199)</p> <p>October 2006, CMS mails a change in copayment level notice to people who will continue to automatically qualify for extra help in 2007, but whose copayment levels will change as of January 1, 2007.</p> <p>Main Message: Change in Copayments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action, unless your contact believes an error has occurred, keep the notice for your files.
<p>Plan Marketing Materials</p> <p>On October 1, plans begin sending marketing materials for 2007.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action. Information allows beneficiaries to compare options for 2007.
<p>Plan Termination Letter</p> <p>By October 2, people whose 2006 plan terminates in 2007 get notices from plans.</p> <p>Main Message: Change in Prescription Drug Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary must look for a new plan for coverage in 2007.

<p>Plan Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) Model ANOC</p> <p>By October 31, Notice from current plan of 2007 formulary, benefit design, and/or premium changes.</p> <p>Main Message: Change in Costs and/or Benefits</p> <p>Medicare RX Checkup</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review changes to decide whether the plan will continue to meet prescription drug needs in 2007.
<p>Reassignment Letter (Blue Letter) (Pub. No. 11208) – October 30 Version 1</p> <p>This notice explains your current plan is leaving the Medicare Program and Medicare will reassign you to a new plan effective January 1, 2007, unless you join a new plan on your own, by December 31, 2006.</p> <p>Main Message: Change in Prescription Drug Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the notice. Compare the new 2007 plan to meet your needs. Which plans cover the prescriptions you take? Which pharmacies can you use? Change plans, if you choose, before December 8th. For more information call 1-800-MEDICARE; check Medicare & You 2007; go to www.medicare.gov, or contact State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized help.
<p>Reassignment Letter (Blue Letter) (Pub. No. 11209) – October 30 Version 2</p> <p>This notice explains that your plan’s premiums are increasing, and will no longer be covered by the Low Income Subsidy in 2007. Because you were auto enrolled into this plan in 2006, Medicare will reassign you to a new plan effective January 1, 2007, unless you join a new plan on your own, by December 31, 2006.</p> <p>Main Message: Change in Prescription Drug Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the notice. Compare the new 2007 plan to your needs. Which plans cover the prescriptions you take? Which pharmacies can you use? Change plans, if you choose, before December 8th. For more information call 1-800-MEDICARE; check Medicare & You 2007; go to www.medicare.gov, or contact State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized help.
<p>Medicare and You 2007</p> <p>The “Medicare & You” handbook is mailed to all Medicare households each fall. Includes a summary of Medicare benefits, rights, and protections; lists of health and drug plans available in the area; and answers frequently asked questions about Medicare.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action necessary. Keep the handbook as a reference guide. Also found at www.medicare.gov
<p>Premium Withhold Letter (Pub No. 11262)</p> <p>This letter is being sent to a subset of beneficiaries who received a refund as a result of an error in the CMS system and explains that due to a problem encountered when restarting the premium withhold option, CMS failed to withhold Part C premiums for September and October.</p> <p>Main Message: Change in Amount of Social Security Check for November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the notice. If you have been paying your plan directly for your health coverage, please contact your plan to request a refund. CMS will pay your plan directly for the premiums it is owed. If you have any questions, please call toll free at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

<p><u>Premium Withhold Letter</u> (Pub No. 11263)</p> <p>Due to a problem we encountered in restarting your premium withhold option; we failed to withhold your premium amounts for the months of September and October.</p> <p>Main Message: Change in Amount of Social Security Check for November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the notice. • If you have been paying your plan directly, please contact your plan to request a refund. CMS will directly pay your plan the premiums it is owed. • If you have any questions, please call toll free at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
<p><u>Premium Withhold Letter</u> (Pub No. 11264)</p> <p>Due to computer systems problems, we have either been unable to withhold your premium at all, or we have been unable to withhold the correct amount of your premium for a number of months.</p> <p>Main Message: Change in Amount of Social Security Check for November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the notice. • If you have been paying the difference between the plan’s premium and the amount being withheld from your Social Security payment directly to your plan, please contact them to request a refund. CMS will pay your plan directly for the full amount of premiums it is owed. • If you have any questions, please call toll free at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
<p><u>Premium Withhold Letter</u> (Pub No. 11265)</p> <p>Due to computer systems problems, we have been unable to process your request for direct premium withhold and you have been moved to a direct bill status. This means that your plan will now send you bills for the amount of your premium.</p> <p>Main Message: Refund Sent to You</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you receive a refund for all of the premiums withheld to date, we advise that you set this refund aside since the plan in which you are enrolled will be billing you directly for these amounts. Beginning with November, no premiums will be withheld from your Social Security payment. • If you have any questions, please call toll free at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.