

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports

January 22, 2010

Page: 1

TO: Commissioners, TA Directors, FS Directors, Staff Development Coordinators

FROM: Russell Sykes, Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment & Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Reminder of Change in Medicare Part B Premium

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Food Stamp Bureau 518-473-1469

Background

Last October, for the first time, Congress established a tiered system for the Medicare Part B Premium, maintaining the old rate of \$96.40 for most current enrollees and establishing a new, higher premium for new enrollees and for enrollees who do not have the premium deducted directly from their Social Security payment. Information regarding this change first was provided to the local districts in 09 INF-22, dated November 24, 2009.

Purpose

The purpose of this GIS is to remind local districts of this change and to call attention to its impact on the food stamp budgets of households who have members who will be subject to different premium rates.

Policy and Program Implications

The Medicare Part B basic premium will remain at \$96.40 per month for beneficiaries who were enrolled and had the premium deducted from their Social Security payment prior to January 1, 2010, and whose annual income is not above \$85,000 for a single person or \$170,000 for a married couple. Please note that the income limits cited mean that **few if any FS recipients who were enrolled in Medicare Part B prior to January 1, 2010 and have the premium deducted directly from their Social Security payments will be subject to the higher premium rate.**

Beneficiaries who first enroll in Medicare Part B in 2010, and Part B enrollees who do not have their Part B premium deducted directly from their Social Security payment (e.g., their premium is paid for them by Medicaid or Medicare Buy-In), will be charged \$110.50 per month. Food Stamp applicants and recipients who incur unreimbursed out-of-pocket (this includes premiums deducted directly from SSA payments) costs for Medicare Part B premiums must have the actual monthly cost allowed as a Food Stamp medical deduction.

For individuals who have the Medicare Part B premium paid either by Medicaid or by Medicare Buy-In, the amount of the premium is not an out-of-pocket expense and therefore is not an allowable medical deduction.