

THE GOOD LIFE

options for independence Editor, Janis Merrell GoodLife@LifePathMA.org (413) 773-5555 x2255

A publication of

Find past editions on www.LifePathMA.org

www.facebook.com/LifePathMA

Medicare Costs in 2024

By Lorraine York-Edberg, SHINE Regional **Program Director**



for The Centers Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) released the 2024 premiums, deductibles, coinsurance and for the amounts Medicare Part A and Part B programs on November 12, 2023.

The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B in 2024 will be \$174.70, up from \$164.90 in 2023, an increase of \$9.80. The cost of this premium is normally taken out of your Social Security direct deposit, however if you are not collecting Social Security yet, you will receive a premium bill in the mail.

Medicare beneficiaries whose individual income is above \$103,000 annually or a couple's joint income above \$206,000 annually will pay an increased amount for their Part B and Part D, called an incomerelated monthly adjustment amount, also known as "IRMAA." This affects 7% of people with Medicare. The Federal government bases the 2024 adjustments on the beneficiaries' 2022 Federal Income taxes. You may request a new initial determination through Social Security if you believe your IRMAA is incorrect by contacting your local Social Security office. This is especially important if your income has changed after 2022 due to various reasons, for instance, you retire and are no longer working.

enrolled, helps pay for doctors' services, in MA. Please stay tuned to The Good Life x-rays and tests, outpatient hospital care, for an announcement of these new eligibility ambulance service, medical supplies, and levels later this year. other medical equipment.

Medicare Part A (Hospital Coverage) helps pay for hospital care, skilled nursing care, home health care, hospice care, and other services. The Part A deductible will increase from \$1,600 to \$1,632 for beneficiaries. This deductible is the beneficiary's only cost for up to 60 days of Medicare-covered inpatient hospital services. The 61st to the 90th day has increased from \$400 to \$408 a day, and beyond the 90th day has increased from \$800 to \$816 a day. For beneficiaries who have a Medigap Supplement 1 or 1A plan, these costs are covered by that supplemental insurance coverage.

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period Started January 1, 2024

Did you know if you are unhappy with your Medicare Advantage Plan, you have options?

The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MA OEP) occurs each year from January 1 through March 31. You can only use this enrollment period if you have a Medicare Advantage Plan on January 1. Changes made during this period take effect the first of the month following the month you enroll. For example, if you join a new Medicare Advantage Plan in February, your new coverage begins March 1.

qualifying stay in a hospital. The skilled physical disabilities. nursing facility coinsurance increased from

Coverage) premium, for those who are and will assist many Medicare beneficiaries

2024 Spring SHINE Training Begins in April

If you're interested in healthcare and looking for a volunteer opportunity, consider signing up to become a SHINE counselor with LifePath. The 2024 Spring Training starts in April, and there is no better time to get started.

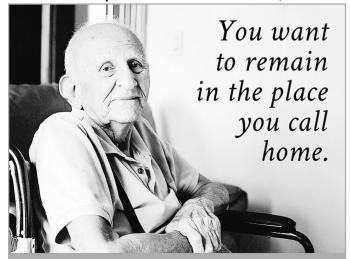
SHINE, Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone, is a program that provides free, confidential, and unbiased health insurance counseling for all Medicare beneficiaries. Volunteers in the LifePath SHINE program serve communities in all of Franklin County as well as the North Quabbin region of Worcester County and parts of Hampden and Hampshire counties.

SHINE counselors work one-on-one with individuals in their own communities to educate and inform Medicare beneficiaries of their insurance options-providing information, counseling, and assistance on Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage Medicare Prescription Plans, Drug Coverage, Public Benefits, Senior Care Options, One Care Plans, and more. Those interested in becoming counselors should be comfortable working with a population Medicare Part A covers the first 20 days in consisting primarily of elders and persons a skilled nursing facility, after a three-day- with behavioral health challenges and

SHINE Counselor Anna Viadero recently told me, "Thanks for the opportunity to work in SHINE. I love my work and love learning and meeting people from all walks of life through SHINE." Counselors benefit from ongoing monthly meetings, allowing them to stay up-to-date with new healthcare policies and programs, which are always (MSP) that can assist with the payment of changing. This year's training is vast and

The 2024 Part B annual deductible will be \$240 for all Medicare beneficiaries, an increase of \$14 from 2023. The Part B deductible is annual; once you have incurred \$240 of expenses for Medicare-covered services in any year, the Part B deductible does not apply for the rest of the year.

The monthly Medicare Part B (Medical



413.773.5555 978.544.2259 800.732.4636 Info@LifePathMA.org | LifePathMA.org



NE-374368

\$200 to \$204 for the 21st to the 100th day.

Many Medicare beneficiaries purchase additional insurance, including Medicare Supplemental Plans or Medicare Advantage Plans, to cover the gaps of Medicare in order to help reduce out-of-pocket expenses.

There are also Medicare Savings Programs the Part B premium. These MSP Programs comprehensive, and will address changes help more than 10 million people nationally that have taken place in the past year. with coverage of Medicare premiums. In addition, if eligible for MSP, the Part D The 2024 Spring Training is set to take place low-income subsidy (LIS) helps pay for virtually via Zoom from 9:30 AM to 12 the Part D premium and lowers the cost of PM with a break for lunch, then back to the prescription drugs. Our state passed a bill training from 1 PM to 3:30 PM, beginning that will assist people to become eligible for in April. Participants will meet virtually on this program by eliminating the asset test weekdays for 12 sessions. A graduation sometime in 2024. This is a huge benefit

Reach thousands of existing and potential clients with an advertisement in The Good Life.



Elizabeth Coté 203-912-4680 ecote@recorder.com GREENFIELD RECORDER recorder.com 🚮 🖌

For more information, contact: Suzanne Hunter 413-772-0261 x 228 shunter@recorder.com

celebration will take place in June.

If you are interested, want to learn more, or wish to sign up, contact Lorraine York-Edberg, Western Regional SHINE Program Director, at 413-773-5555 x2275 or 978-544-2259 x2275, 413-829-9216, or at lyork-edberg@LifePathMA.org. For more information about the SHINE Program and other programs at LifePath, visit LifePathMA.org