

Guide to Mailings from CMS, Social Security and Plans SUMMER AND FALL 2008

Date	Sender	Mailing/Color	Main Message	Consumer Action
Mid-May	Social Security	Social Security LIS and MSP Outreach Letter (SSA Forms L446, L447 & L448)	Informs people who may be eligible for Medicare Savings Programs about the MSPs and the extra help available for Medicare prescription drug plan costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you think you qualify for extra help, you should apply. For more information about the extra help or if you want to apply, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).
Late August	Social Security	Social Security Letter to Review Eligibility for Extra Help (SSA Form 1026)	Informs people selected for review that they should see if they continue to qualify for extra help in 2009. Includes an "Income and Resources Summary" sheet.	If you receive this letter, you must return the enclosed form in the enclosed postage paid envelope within 30 days or your extra help may end.
September	CMS	Loss of Deemed Status Letter (Pub. No. 11198) (GREY Letter)	Informs people that they no longer automatically qualify for extra help as of January 1, 2009.	Apply for extra help through Social Security (application and postage paid envelope enclosed) or a State Medical Assistance (Medicaid) office.
Early October	CMS	Change in Extra Help Co-payment Letter (Pub. No. 11199) (ORANGE Letter)	Informs people that they will continue to automatically qualify for extra help in 2009, but their co-payment levels will change as of January 1, 2009.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the notice. No action, unless you believe an error has occurred.
October	Plans	Plan Marketing Materials	On October 1, plans begin sending marketing materials for 2009.	No action. Use this information to compare options for 2009.
October	Plans	Plan Termination Letter	By October 2, people whose 2008 plan terminates in 2009 will get notices from plans.	You must look for a new plan for coverage in 2009.
October	Plans	Plan Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) Model ANOC	By October 31, people will get a notice from their current plan outlining 2009 benefit and/or premium changes.	Review changes to decide whether the plan will continue to meet your needs in 2009.
October	Plans	Plan LIS Rider	By October 31, all people who qualify for the LIS will get an LIS rider from their plan telling them how much subsidy they will get in 2009 towards their Part D premium, deductible, and copayments.	Keep this with their plan's Evidence of Coverage (EOC), so they can refer to it if they have questions about their costs.

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October	CMS	Medicare & You 2009 Handbook	Mailed to all Medicare households each fall and includes a summary of Medicare benefits, rights, and protections; lists of health and drug plans available in the area; and answers to frequently asked questions about Medicare.	Keep the handbook as a reference guide. "Medicare & You" 2009 can also be found at www.medicare.gov
October	Employer/ Union Plans	Notice of Creditable Coverage	Employer/union and other group health plans must tell all Medicare-eligible plan participants whether or not their drug coverage is creditable before November 15 each year.	Keep the notice.
Late October/ Early November	CMS	Reassignment Letter (Pub. No. 11208 – Version 1) (BLUE Letter)	Informs people that their current plan is leaving the Medicare Program and they will be reassigned to a new plan effective January 1, 2009, unless they join a new plan on their own by December 31, 2008.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the notice. • Compare the 2009 plans to see which plan meets your needs. • Change plans, if you choose, in early December. • For more information call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048), check "Medicare & You" 2009, visit www.medicare.gov, or contact the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized help.
		Reassignment Letter (Pub. No. 11209 – Version 2) (BLUE Letter)	Informs auto-enrollees that because their plan's premiums are increasing above the regional LIS premium subsidy amount, they will be reassigned to a new plan effective January 1, 2009, unless they join a new plan on their own by December 31, 2008.	
November	Social Security	Social Security Part B Income-Related Premium Adjustment Notice	Tells higher-income consumers about income-related Part B premium adjustments. Includes the information in the December BRI notices (see page 3).	Keep the notice.
November	Social Security	Social Security LIS Redetermination Decision Letter Begins	Social Security begins mailing decision letters about LIS eligibility for the coming year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the notice • If you believe the decision is incorrect, you have the right to appeal it. The letter explains how to appeal. • If you have questions, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).
Late November	Social Security	Social Security LIS and MSP Outreach Letter (SSA Form L441)	Informs people who may be eligible for QDWI about the Medicare Savings Programs and the extra help available for Medicare prescription drug plan costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you think you qualify for extra help, you should apply. • For more information about the extra help or if you want to apply, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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December	Social Security	Social Security Benefit Rate Increase (BRI) Notice	Tells people about benefit payment changes for the coming year due to cost of living increases, variations in the premiums that are withheld, etc.	Keep the notice.
Monthly - ongoing	CMS	<u>Deemed Status Letter</u> (Pub No. 11166) (PURPLE Letter)	Informs people that they will automatically get extra help, including people 1) with Medicare and Medicaid, 2) in Medicare Savings Programs, and 3) who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the notice. • No need to apply to get the extra help. • Compare Medicare prescription drug plans with others to meet your needs. • For more information call 1-800-MEDICARE, check “Medicare & You” 2009, visit www.medicare.gov, or contact the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized help.
Monthly - ongoing	CMS	<u>Auto-Enrollment Notice</u> (Pub No. 11154) (YELLOW Letter)	Informs people who qualify for Medicare & Medicaid and who currently get their benefits through the Original Medicare Plan that they will be automatically enrolled in a drug plan if they don’t enroll themselves or decline coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the notice. • No need to apply to get the extra help. • If you don’t join a plan, Medicare will enroll you in one. • Compare Medicare prescription drug plans with others to meet your needs. • For more information call 1-800-MEDICARE, check “Medicare & You” 2009, visit www.medicare.gov, or contact the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized help.
Monthly - ongoing	CMS	<u>Facilitated Enrollment Notice</u> (Pub No. 11186 & Pub No 11191) (GREEN Letter)	Informs people who either 1) belong to a Medicare Savings Program or 2) receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or 3) applied and qualified for the extra help that they will be automatically enrolled in a drug plan if they don’t enroll themselves or decline coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the notice. • If you don’t join a plan, Medicare will enroll you in one. • Compare Medicare prescription drug plans with others to meet your needs. • For more information call 1-800-MEDICARE, check “Medicare & You” 2009, visit www.medicare.gov, or contact the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized help.