

Introduction to the Loss of Deemed (Extra Help) Status Notice

What Is the Purpose of this Notice?

The purpose of this notice is to inform some people with Medicare that they no longer automatically qualify for Extra Help (aren't deemed) as of January 1, 2010, and encourage them to apply for Extra Help to see if they will continue to qualify.

Who Gets this Notice?

Some people with Medicare won't automatically qualify for Extra Help in 2010 because they no longer qualify for Medicaid, no longer get help from their state Medicaid program to pay Medicare Part B premiums (belong to a Medicare Savings Program), or no longer get Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

When Do People Get this Notice?

The notice (on grey paper) and an application for Extra Help will be mailed in September.

What Should People Do Next?

People who have limited income and resources may still qualify for Extra Help, but they must apply to find out. If they apply and qualify, they will continue to get Extra Help in 2010. They should apply as soon as possible so there will be no gap in the help they get with their prescription drug costs.

An application for Extra Help will be mailed with the notice. People should fill it out and mail it to Social Security in the postage-paid envelope. If they have questions about the notice or about Medicare prescription drug coverage, they can do one of the following:

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Read the "Medicare & You" handbook.
- Visit www.medicare.gov.
- Call their State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized health insurance counseling. See the "Medicare & You" handbook, or call 1-800-MEDICARE for their telephone number.

People can reference CMS Product No. 11198 if they call Medicare or their SHIP with questions.



<BENEFICIARY FULL NAME>
<ADDRESS>
<CITY STATE ZIP>

HICN <1234>
September 2009

Please keep this notice for your records.

You no longer automatically qualify for Extra Help.

You currently get Extra Help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage. Starting January 1, 2010, you will no longer get this Extra Help automatically for one of the following reasons:

- You no longer qualify for Medicaid.
- You no longer belong to a Medicare Savings Program (help from your state Medicaid Program to pay your Medicare Part B premiums).
- You no longer get Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

This means your costs for Medicare prescription drug coverage may increase.

You must apply to see if you still qualify!

Many people can still get Extra Help, even when they don't automatically qualify. To find out if you still qualify in 2010, you need to apply. Please complete the enclosed application and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope.

You can also apply by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov. To apply by telephone, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778. You can also call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at <SHIP phone number> for help.

Don't delay. Please apply as soon as possible to make sure that, if you qualify, you will continue to get Extra Help as of January 1, 2010.

What if your situation changes?

In the coming months your situation may change so that you again qualify for Medicaid, belong to a Medicare Savings Program, or get SSI. If this happens, you will again automatically qualify for Extra Help. We will send you another notice on purple paper to let you know you qualify.

Here's how you can still qualify.

You may still qualify for Extra Help if you meet the following income and resource limits:

- Your yearly income isn't more than \$16,245 for an individual or \$21,855 for a married couple living together. Even if your annual income is higher, you could still qualify if you meet one of the following conditions:
 - You or your spouse support other family members who live with you.
 - You or your spouse have earnings from work.
 - You live in Alaska or Hawaii.
- Your resources are limited to \$12,510 for an individual or \$25,010 for a married couple living together. Resources include your savings and stocks, but not your home or car.

The above amounts are for 2009 and may change in 2010. If your income and resources are slightly higher, you should still apply. Also, starting in 2010, payments other people make for your food and shelter won't count as income, and life insurance won't count as a resource.

Here's where to get more information.

If you have questions about how to apply for Extra Help, visit Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

If you have questions about this notice or Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can do any of the following:

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Read your "Medicare & You" handbook.
- Visit www.medicare.gov.
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized health insurance counseling at <SHIP phone number>.

If you think you got this notice because of an error, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

Para obtener información en español, llame GRATIS al 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Los usuarios con teléfono de texto (TTY) deben llamar al 1-877-486-2048.