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Medicare Part C and Part D Options by Ruth Dockins

MARCH 17TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

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*Age Spots by
Ruth Dockins*

Medicare Part C and Medicare Part D Options

The Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) sent out notices around the end of February to individuals who are enrolled in Part C or Part D plans, if the plan has earned less than three stars for three consecutive years during the recent annual enrollment period. The plans can get ratings between 1 and 5 stars. 5 stars meaning excellent and 1 star being poor.

This notice was to alert beneficiaries to the sponsor or organization's low rating and to inform enrollees of an opportunity to contact CMS to request a special enrollment period to move into a higher quality plan in 2015.

If you received one of these notices you may want to make a change to another plan. To make a change you should call 1-800-medicare (1-800-633-4227). If you are having no problems with the plan and want to continue with it you may do so. If you have questions about this you may call our office at 1-800-392-8771 or locally at 335-3331.

Premium Assistance

Please don't forget that our office can assist you with applications for assistance paying your Part B, C or D premium if you meet the income guidelines. If you are single and have monthly income of \$1,471 or less and resources (things you own not counting your house and car) of \$13,640 or less you would be eligible for assistance paying your premium for Part D. If you are married the monthly income could be \$1,991 or less with resources of \$27,250 or less to get help paying the premium for Part D.

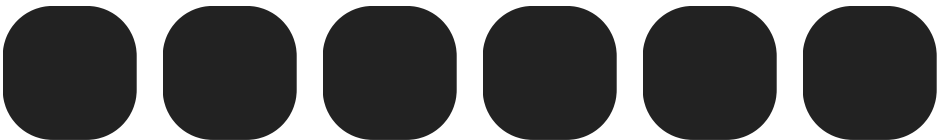
To get help paying the premium for Medicare Part B (\$104.90 per month this year) you would need to have monthly income of \$1,345 or less as a single person or \$1,813 or less as a married couple with resources of \$7,280 or less for a single person or \$10,930 or less as a married couple.

If you have questions about any of this information or need help applying for the benefits please call my office at 1-800-392-8771 or locally at 335-3331.

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