

March 2017

Do you have a Medicare Part B Late Enrollment Penalty?

Help may be available to reduce or eliminate the penalty if:

- You are enrolled in Medicare Part B and have a late enrollment penalty because you had coverage through a Vermont Health Connect insurance plan in the past or
- You have not enrolled in Medicare Part B because you currently have or you had coverage through Vermont Health Connect insurance plan.

This opportunity is available only until September 30, 2017.

For more information:

- Call the Senior HelpLine at 800-642-5119 and ask to speak to a SHIP staff person for more information.
- Contact the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213
- CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) Fact Sheet:

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Eligibility-and-Enrollment/Medicare-and-the-Marketplace/Downloads/Limited-Equitable-Relief-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

This information was created by Vermont SHIP with financial assistance from the Administration for Community Living. The contents, therefore, do not necessarily represent official ACL policy.

To send to colleagues, newspapers, news letters, etc:

New initiative to reduce or eliminate Medicare Part B late enrollment penalties for some beneficiaries

Some Medicare beneficiaries now have a time-limited opportunity to reduce or eliminate a Part B late enrollment penalty. Medicare beneficiaries who have a Part B late enrollment penalty, or who would have one if they enrolled, because they have or had coverage through a Vermont Health Connect health insurance plan can ask to have the penalty reduced or eliminated. This new opportunity is available only until September 30, 2017.

It is important to let the Medicare beneficiaries in your community know about this important and limited opportunity. Beneficiaries who don't know about this could lose many thousands of dollars.

Medicare beneficiaries must file a request with the Social Security Administration with the required documentation to ask that their late enrollment penalty be reduced or eliminated.

The SHIP program (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) is available to provide information on the process and to assist Medicare beneficiaries. SHIP staff are located in every Area Agency on Aging office and assist Medicare beneficiaries with Medicare eligibility, enrollment, and with programs that help pay Medicare costs.

To reach a SHIP staff person call the Senior HelpLine at 800-642-5119 and ask to speak with a SHIP staff person.

This information was created by Vermont SHIP with financial assistance from the Administration for Community Living. The contents, therefore, do not necessarily represent official ACL policy

This is all that CMS is releasing as a press release:

Equitable Relief for Beneficiaries Dually Enrolled in Medicare and Marketplace

CMS is offering assistance to Medicare beneficiaries currently enrolled in Medicare Part A and the Marketplace for individuals or families. This assistance provides eligible individuals with an opportunity to enroll in Medicare Part B without penalty. Further, CMS is offering assistance to eligible individuals who were dually enrolled in Medicare Part A and the Marketplace for individuals and families and subsequently enrolled in Medicare Part B with a penalty. This assistance provides these individuals an opportunity to request a reduction in their Medicare Part B late enrollment penalty.

For more information, click here: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Eligibility-and-Enrollment/Medicare-and-the-Marketplace/Overview1.html>