



**IMPORTANT STATE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN (SHBP)
MEDICARE INFORMATION for RETIREES/DEPENDENTS
ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE BECAUSE OF AGE OR DISABILITY**

GENERAL MEDICARE INFORMATION/SHBP MEDICARE POLICY

When you become eligible for Medicare because of reaching age 65 or disability, you should enroll in Medicare. Medicare is the federal health insurance program and includes Parts A - hospitalization, B - provider services and D - prescription drugs. It is important that you purchase Part B coverage, even if you are not automatically entitled to Medicare Part A because you or your spouse have not paid Medicare taxes for the appropriate number of work quarters. Part B coverage can be purchased if you are a U.S. citizen or legal resident with five years of continuous residency. If not automatically entitled to Medicare Part A under your own work record, you may be eligible under a spouse or former spouse. You should contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) to confirm eligibility and enroll.

SHBP Medicare Policy requires that all retirees and their eligible spouses age 65 and over enroll in the Medicare Advantage (MA) PPO Standard option offered by CIGNA (in an alliance with **Humana**) and UnitedHealthcare (UHC) or the MA PPO Premium offered by UHC, in order to continue to receive the state contribution toward the cost of their SHBP premiums. To enroll in an SHBP MA PPO option, you must at least have Medicare Part B coverage. These plans are all inclusive plans and include your Part A (hospitalization) Part B (physician and ancillary services), Part D (prescription drug coverage) and additional benefits thru SHBP. This plan replaces original Medicare but you should not destroy your Medicare card(s).

- Enrollment in Medicare allows you the opportunity to change your health care options
- Notify SHBP of Medicare enrollment by calling the SHBP Call Center at 800-610-1863 by the first of the month prior to the month you or your spouse reach age 65 and become eligible for Medicare or by faxing copies of your Medicare cards to SHBP's secure fax at 866-828-4796
- SHBP will automatically transfer the person (retiree or spouse) to the MA PPO Standard option with their current healthcare vendor once we have processed the Medicare information
- Premiums increase significantly if you or your eligible spouse are not enrolled in Medicare or have not submitted proof of your Medicare coverage to SHBP. Premiums will be adjusted once Medicare information is received and enrollment in one of the SHBP MA PPO options has been processed
- SHBP does not refund the difference in premiums for non-timely submission of Medicare information
- Enrollment in the MA PPO option is **OPTIONAL** for Medicare eligible retirees and/or dependents under age 65.
- If you or your eligible dependent has End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) you should contact SHBP for additional information regarding MA PPO enrollment

SHBP MEDICARE ADVANTAGE (MA) PLAN BENEFITS

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is the authorizing Federal agency for all MA plans. *Enrollment in any of the SHBP MA PPO options is subject to CMS approval.*
- You will continue to pay both your Medicare Part B to Social Security and your SHBP premiums
- These plans include your Part A (hospitalization) Part B (physician and ancillary services) and Part D (prescription drug coverage). Therefore, you cannot enroll in a separate Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D Plan or Medicare Supplement; as doing so will cause you to permanently lose your SHBP MA PPO coverage
- SHBP MA PPO options are custom plans designed to limit your out-of-pocket expenses and to provide enhanced benefits over standard Medicare
- There is a medical out-of-pocket expense limit under the Standard and Premium MA PPO options for covered services (does not include co-pays for prescription drugs)
- Both options have low premiums, are national plans and provide benefits for hearing aids, vision, podiatry and chiropractic services
- You can see any provider that accepts Medicare
- The MA PPO option drug formulary is determined by CMS not SHBP

- If all family members are not eligible for the MA PPO option, the person enrolled in Medicare will be enrolled in the MA PPO option and covered dependents will remain in their current non-MA plan (HRA, HMO OR HDHP) under the same vendor as the retiree

Note: If CMS denies enrollment in the SHBP MAPPO plan for reasons beyond your control, you will be returned to your Medicare Parts A and B coverage automatically and SHBP will enroll you in one of the other non-MA plans until CMS approves enrollment. Enrollment in a Medicare Part D plan is not automatic and you must enroll within 60 days of the loss of coverage to not pay a penalty. You should only enroll in a Part D plan if you choose to remain in a non-MA PPO option. The annual Open Enrollment for Part D plans is October 15 through December 7 if you miss the initial enrollment deadline.

SHBP NON-MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS

- You may enroll in one of the SHBP non-MA PPO options *but will pay the entire cost of the premium*
- Medicare will be your primary health insurance and SHBP will become secondary. You will still be responsible for any applicable co-payments, deductibles or any amount above the Plan's allowable charges
- If later you enroll in a SHBP MA PPO option and coverage under the MA PPO will be effective the first of the month following your request (subject to CMS approval)

RETIRED AND TURNING 65

- SHBP will automatically request that CMS approve enrollment in the SHBP MA PPO Standard option under your current vendor for the covered SHBP member with Medicare Part B (if SHBP has received and processed the Medicare information). A covered dependent not eligible for the MA PPO option and covered under the contract will keep his/her current option and the same vendor as the retiree
- If you wish to select another option or prefer the UHC MA PPO Premium option, you must notify SHBP within 31 days from your retirement date
- Your current healthcare vendor will mail you a packet of information explaining the MA PPO options approximately 3 months prior to you turning 65 (you may also request a packet from either vendor at anytime)
- You will remain in your current option until approved by CMS. Your premium will increase significantly if approval is delayed or denied

RETIREES (and their covered spouses) AGE 65 OR OLDER

- You and/or your covered spouse should enroll in Medicare 60 days prior to your retirement date. You must notify SHBP of Medicare enrollment by calling the SHBP Call Center or faxing copies of the Medicare cards to the secure fax number (see below). Your SHBP premiums will increase significantly if SHBP does not have Medicare information on file the month you retire
- You will have to contact your vendor directly and request a MA PPO information packet

NOTE: CMS requires a physical address for all participants for enrollment in the MA PPO option. If the only address SHBP has on file is a post office box, your request for enrollment in one of the MA PPO options will be denied by CMS.

MAIL ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDICARE INFORMATION TO:

State Health Benefit Plan

P. O. Box 1990, Atlanta, GA 30301-1990 or

QUESTIONS-CALL

SHBP Call Center (800)-610-1863 (eligibility)

Fax (866) 828-4796 (Secure Fax Line)

Humana (800)-942-6742 (claims and benefits)

UnitedHealthcare (877)-755-5343 (claims and benefits)