



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

DAVE RICHARD
DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

August 4, 2017

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Subject: Low Income Subsidy Part D and Prescription Drug Plan Reassignments

The purpose of this letter is to notify counties of the annual re-determination of Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) and provide Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) open enrollment information.

In July 2017, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) issued a joint mailing to beneficiaries who are not automatically eligible for LIS in 2018, whose co-payments levels will change or whose Part D plan is no longer available. Details concerning these mailings are found in the CMS LIS Guide located at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/LimitedIncomeandResources/LIS-Notices-and-Mailings.html>.

Additional plans are available for 2018. Assistance with choosing a PDP is available through SHIP at 1-800-443-9354, the Medicare Hotline at 1-800-MEDICARE/1-800-633-4227 or at the Medicare website at www.medicare.gov. CMS announced that the average basic premium for a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan in 2018 is projected to decline to an estimated \$33.50 per month. This represents a decrease of approximately \$1.20 below the actual average premium of \$34.70 in 2017.

Open enrollment for Part D Prescription Drug Plans is October 5, 2017, through December 7, 2017. Encourage beneficiaries to complete the enrollment prior to November 23, 2017, to allow adequate processing time. Beneficiaries only need to take action to cancel or change plans. Beneficiaries who wish to change their current plan only need to enroll in a new plan for 2018. Enrollment in the new plan will terminate the 2017 plan effective December 31, 2017.

Counties must continue taking LIS applications as required in [MA-2310](#).

If you have any questions regarding this material, please contact the Operational Support Team (OST) at ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov

Sincerely,

Dave Richard

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