



Guide to consumer mailings from CMS, Social Security, & plans in 2015/2016

(All notices available online are hyperlinked, but note that current year versions for many notices aren't posted until fall.)

M	te	Sender	Mailing/color	Main message	Consumer action
Mid-May		Social Security	Social Security LIS and MSP Outreach Notice (SSA Pub. Forms L447 & L448)	Informs people who may be eligible for Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) about MSPs and the Extra Help available for Medicare prescription drug coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you think you qualify for Extra Help, you should apply. • Apply for Extra Help through Social Security.
Early September		Social Security	Social Security Notice to Review Eligibility for Extra Help (SSA Form No. 1026)	Informs people selected for review that they should see if they continue to qualify for Extra Help. Includes an "Income and Resources Summary" sheet.	If you get this notice, you must return the enclosed form in the enclosed postage-paid envelope within 30 days or your Extra Help may end.
September		Plans	Plan Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) and Evidence of Coverage (EOC) Model ANOC	By September 30 , people will get a notice from their current plan outlining 2016 formulary, benefit design, and/or premium changes.	Review changes to decide whether the plan will continue to meet your needs in 2016.
September		Plans	Plan LIS Rider Model LIS Rider	By September 30 , all people who qualify for Extra Help will get an LIS rider from their plan telling them how much help they'll get in 2016 towards their Part D premium, deductible, and copayments.	Keep this with your plan's "Evidence of Coverage" (EOC), so you can refer to it if you have questions about your costs.
September		CMS	Loss of Deemed Status Notice (Product No. 11198) (GREY Notice)	Informs people that they no longer automatically qualify for Extra Help as of January 1, 2016.	Apply for Extra Help through Social Security (application and postage-paid envelope enclosed) or a State Medical Assistance (Medicaid) office.
Late September		CMS	"Medicare & You" 2015 Handbook	Mailed to all Medicare households each fall. Includes a summary of Medicare benefits, rights, and protections; lists of available health and drug plans; and answers to frequently asked questions about Medicare.	Keep the handbook as a reference guide. You can also download a copy online at Medicare.gov .
Early October		Employer /union plans	Notice of Creditable Coverage	By October 15 , employer/union and other group health plans must tell all Medicare-eligible enrollees whether or not their drug coverage is creditable.	Keep the notice.

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October	Plans	Plan Marketing Materials	On October 1, plans begin sending marketing materials for 2016.	Use this information to compare options for 2016.
October	Plans	Plan Non-Renewal Notice	By October 2, people whose 2015 plan is leaving the Medicare program in 2016 will get notices from plans.	You must look for a new plan for coverage in 2016.
October	CMS	Change in Extra Help Co-payment Notice (Product No. 11199) (ORANGE Notice)	Informs people that they still automatically qualify for Extra Help, but their copayment levels will change starting January 1, 2016.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the notice. No action, unless you believe an error has occurred.
Late October	CMS	Consistent Poor Performer Notice (Product No. 11627)	Informs people that they're enrolled in a plan that has been identified as a consistent poor performer (i.e. fewer than 3 stars for 3 or more consecutive years) and encourages them to explore other plan options in their area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Medicare.gov/find-a-plan find and compare plans in your area. You can change plans during the Open Enrollment Period (October 15–December 7). Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to change plans outside of this period. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
Late October	CMS	Reassignment Notice – Plan Termination (Product No. 11208) (BLUE Notice)	Informs people that their current Medicare drug plan is leaving the Medicare Program and they'll be reassigned to a new Medicare drug plan effective January 1, 2016, unless they join a new plan on their own by December 31, 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the notice. Compare plans to see which plan meets your needs. Change plans, if you choose, in early December. For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE, check "Medicare & You," visit Medicare.gov, or contact the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free, personalized help.
		Reassignment Notice – Premium Increase (Product No. 11209) (BLUE Notice)	Informs auto-enrollees that because their current Medicare drug plan premium is increasing above the regional LIS premium subsidy amount, they'll be reassigned to a new Medicare drug plan effective January 1, 2016, unless they join a new plan on their own by December 31, 2015.	
Late October/ Early November	CMS	MA Reassignment Notice (Product No. 11443) (BLUE Notice)	Informs people who get Extra Help and whose current Medicare Advantage (MA) plan is leaving the Medicare Program that they'll be re-assigned to a Medicare drug plan effective January 1, 2016, if they don't join a new MA or PDP plan on their own by December 31, 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the notice. Compare plans to see which plan meets your needs. Change plans, if you choose, in early December. For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE, check "Medicare & You," visit Medicare.gov, or contact the SHIP for free, personalized help.

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Early November	CMS	LIS Choosers Notice (Product No. 11267) (TAN Notice)	Informs people who get Extra Help and chose a Medicare dug plan on their own that their plan's premium is changing, and they'll have to pay a portion of their plan's premium in 2016 unless they join a new \$0 premium plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the notice. You may want to look for a new plan for coverage for 2016 with a premium below the regional low income subsidy benchmark. (Notice includes list of local plans with no premium liability.) Change plans in early December if you choose.
November	CMS	CMS Non-Renewal Reminder Notice (Product No. 11433 & Product No. 11438)	Reminds people who don't get Extra Help and whose plan is leaving the Medicare Program that they need to choose a new plan for 2016.	You must look for a new plan for coverage in 2016.
November	Social Security	Social Security Part B & Part D Income-Related Adjustment Amount Notice	Tells higher-income consumers about income-related Part B and Part D premium adjustments. Includes the information in the December BRI notices (see below.)	Keep the notice.
November	Social Security	Social Security LIS Redetermination Decision Notice Begins	Social Security begins mailing notices letting people know whether they still qualify for Extra Help in the coming year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the notice If you believe the decision is incorrect, you have the right to appeal it. The notice explains how to appeal. If you have questions, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.
Late November	Social Security	Social Security LIS and MSP Outreach Notice (Form SSA-L441)	Informs people who may be eligible for Qualified Disabled Working Individual (QDWI) about the Medicare Savings Programs and the Extra Help available for Medicare prescription drug coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you think you qualify for Extra Help, you should apply. For more information about the Extra Help or if you want to apply, call Social Security.
December	Social Security	Social Security Benefit Rate Change (BRI) Notice	Tells people about benefit payment changes for the coming year due to cost of living increases, variations in the premiums that are withheld, etc.	Keep the notice.

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December	CMS	Reassign Formulary Notice (Product No. 11475 & Product No. 11496) (BLUE Notice)	Informs people who get Extra Help and were affected by reassignment which of the Part D drugs they took in 2015 will be covered in their new 2016 Medicare drug plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider whether this plan is right for you, or whether another plan might cover more of your drugs. Compare this Medicare drug plan with others in your area. For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), check "Medicare & You," visit Medicare.gov, or contact the SHIP for free, personalized help. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
January	CMS	CMS Non-Renewal Action Notice (Product No. 11452)	Reminds people who don't get Extra Help and whose Medicare plan left the Medicare Program that they need to join a new Medicare drug plan if they want Medicare drug coverage for 2016.	You must join a Medicare drug plan by February 28 if you want Medicare drug coverage for 2016.
Early February	CMS	Consistent Poor Performer Notice – February Notice to New Enrollees (Product No. 11633)	Informs people that they're enrolled in a plan that has been identified as a consistent poor performer and encourages them to explore other plan options in their area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Medicare.gov/find-a-plan to find and compare plans in your area. You can call 1-800-MEDICARE to move into a higher-rated plan.
Daily - ongoing	CMS	Deemed Status Notice (Product No. 11166) (PURPLE Notice beginning in Sept/Oct)	Informs people that they'll automatically get Extra Help, including people: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> With Medicare and Medicaid Belong to a Medicare Savings Program Who get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the notice. No need to apply to get the Extra Help. Compare Medicare prescription drug plans with others to meet your needs. For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE, check "Medicare & You," visit Medicare.gov, or contact the SHIP for free, personalized help.
Daily - ongoing	CMS	Auto-Enrollment Notice (Product No. 11154) (YELLOW Notice)	Sent to people who automatically qualify for Extra Help because they qualify for Medicare and Medicaid and currently get their benefits through Original Medicare. These people will be automatically enrolled in a drug plan unless they decline coverage or enroll in a plan themselves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the notice. No need to apply to get the Extra Help. If you don't join a plan, Medicare will enroll you in one. Compare Medicare prescription drug plans with others to meet your needs. For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), check "Medicare & You," visit Medicare.gov, or contact the SHIP for free, personalized help. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048

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Daily - ongoing	CMS	Auto-Enrollment - Retroactive Notice (Product No. 11429) (YELLOW Notice)	Sent to people who automatically qualify for Extra Help with a retroactive effective date because they either 1) qualify for Medicare & Medicaid or 2) get Supplemental Security Income (SSI). These people will be automatically enrolled in a drug plan unless they decline coverage or enroll in a plan themselves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the notice. • No need to apply to get the Extra Help. • If you don't join a plan, Medicare will enroll you in one. • Compare Medicare prescription drug plans with others to meet your needs. • For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE, check "Medicare & You," visit Medicare.gov, or contact the SHIP for free, personalized help.
Daily - ongoing	CMS	Facilitated Enrollment Notice (Product No. 11186 & Product No. 11191) (GREEN Notice)	<p>Informs people that they'll be automatically enrolled in a drug plan unless they decline coverage or enroll in a plan themselves, including people who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belong to a Medicare Savings Program 2. Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI), 3. Applied and qualified for Extra Help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the notice. • If you don't join a plan, Medicare will enroll you in one. • Compare Medicare prescription drug plans with others to meet your needs. • For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE, check "Medicare & You," visit Medicare.gov, or contact the SHIP for free, personalized help.
Daily - ongoing	CMS	FBDE RDS Notice (Product No. 11334)	Informs people with Medicare and Medicaid who already have qualifying creditable drug coverage through an employer or union that they automatically qualify for Extra Help, and can join a Medicare drug plan if they want to at no cost to them.	Contact your employer or union plan to learn how joining a Medicare drug plan may affect your current coverage.
Daily - ongoing	Social Security	Initial IRMAA Determination Notice	Sent to people with Medicare Part B and/or Part D when Social Security determines whether any IRMAA amounts apply. Notice includes information about Social Security's determination and appeal rights.	Keep the notice.