

Important Facts

For Released Prisoners with Medicare

Re-starting Your Social Security Benefits

When you were sent to prison, your Social Security Disability or Retirement benefits were suspended, or stopped, after you were in prison for 30 straight days. You do not need to apply for these benefits again after your release. To get these benefits re-started, you should go to your closest Social Security Administration office with your release paperwork from the Department of Corrections (DOC). You can call 211 to find the Social Security office nearest to you. Expect to get your first payment two months after your release. Ask Social Security to see if you qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). If you turned 65 during your prison stay, you can enroll in Medicare part A and Social Security benefits at Social Security.

You may owe Social Security money for funds you received after you went to prison since these funds are not stopped until you have been in prison for 30 days. In 2018, there is a monthly fee for Medicare Part B of \$134 a month that most people pay out of their Social Security check. When your Social Security check was placed on hold during your stay in prison, this fee stopped getting paid. After three months with no payments, Social Security may have removed you from this benefit. If you owe this money to Social Security, it will be taken out of your first check. Please be aware, Social Security no longer mails Social Security checks to your home. You will need to open a checking or savings account to avoid a delay in getting your funds or you can enroll to receive a Direct Express Mastercard by calling 1-800-333-1795.

Getting back Medicare Part B

Medicare Part B, the medical portion of Medicare, pays for your doctor visits, blood tests, outpatient therapy and for some special types of drugs. If you were removed from Medicare Part B, you will only have Medicare Part A active, the part that pays for hospital care.

You would normally have to wait to a General Enrollment Period from January 1 through March 31 to apply for Medicare Part B again, but because you do not have income from Social Security when you are released, you may qualify for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). MSP can help you get your Medicare Part B on the date MSP starts and it will pay your

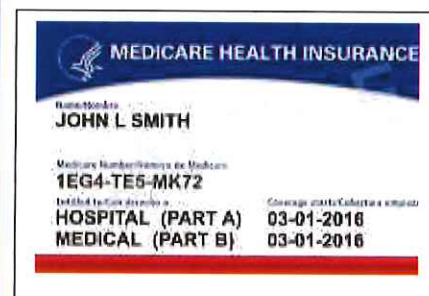
monthly fee for you. You may be able to get help to pay all fees for Medicare hospital or medical care if you qualify for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) level of MSP. Ask staff to request MSP when you apply for Medicaid. Medicare Part B will not get active until Social Security knows DSS is paying your premium, which happens around the 25th of the month after your release.

You can apply for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) after you are released from prison in many ways. The fastest is at any Department of Social Services (DSS) office. You may be able to get emergency SNAP benefits if you have less than \$150 in income and \$100 or less in assets or money in the bank. At the same time, ask DSS to check if you are active on Medicaid or MSP.

How to Get Your Drugs

When you are ready to be released, the Department of Corrections (DOC) will give you a paper or voucher, that is good for 5 days for a 30-day supply of your drugs. The voucher tells the pharmacist how to get the doctor's orders for your drugs. Because you have Medicare, you will also need to tell the pharmacist to enroll you in a temporary Medicare Part D plan, called LINET. You are able to get onto LINET if you applied for Medicaid health insurance before you left prison. Medicaid or another state program, Medicare Savings Program, enrolls you into Extra Help, a program which pays for you to have a benchmark Medicare Part D prescription plan and lowers what you pay when you get drugs. You will have to pay a small fee or cost share when you get these drugs. Please give your pharmacist your Medicare claim number, which is usually your social security number with an "A" after it, or the number listed on your red, white and blue Medicare card. Please contact CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422 for help choosing a permanent Medicare Part D plan and with questions about Medicare.

There are some very specific medicines that are billed to Medicare Part B. If you use an inhaler, or take Insulin, or put medicine into a nebulizer machine for breathing problems, you may need DSS to allow the pharmacist to bill Medicaid for these drugs. The pharmacist can contact the DSS pharmacy unit at 1-866-409-8430 for help if you are active on Medicaid.



Pharmacy Directions Billing LINET

BIN=015599

PCN=05440000

Group ID=Leave blank

Cardholder ID=Medicare number
+ letter

Optional: Patient ID=Medicaid cl
id or SSN number