

MEDICARE FACT SHEET

Prior to turning 65 years old, you should contact your local social security office to see if you are eligible for Medicare coverage. Please be aware that you may be eligible for Medicare coverage from your spouse's employment record. It is recommended that you contact the Social Security Administration approximately 4 months prior to age 65.

MEDICARE A

Medicare A is free. Medicare A covers inpatient hospitalization. It is recommended that you opt to enroll in Medicare A since it is free. If you were to become hospitalized, Medicare A would pay for the coverage. Medicare A is your primary coverage even if you are on the Town of Canton's insurance. The Town of Canton's insurance plan would supplement your Medicare A coverage. Since the Town of Canton runs self insured health plans, the more we use the towns health coverage, the more the premiums increase. By opting for free Medicare A coverage, you enable the federal government to pick up the cost for inpatient hospitalization. This helps maintain your health premium at a modest level.

MEDICARE B

Medicare B will cost \$96.40 per month effective January 1, 2008. If you do not enroll in Medicare B by your 65th birthday, you will be assessed a 10% penalty per year for late enrollment. If you work beyond your 65th birthday, you will be assessed a 10% late enrollment penalty unless you sign up for Medicare B, when you retire. (Example: If you retire when you are 68 years old and sign up when you retire, you will not be assessed a penalty from age 65 to 68.)

Again, please be careful because if you do not enroll when you turn 65 or when you retire, (which ever is later) you will be assessed a 10% penalty per year for late enrollment.

Currently, the Town of Canton offers Medex 3, which supplements Medicare A & B. You cannot enroll in Medex 3, unless you are retired and age 65 and enrolled in Medicare A & B.

MEDICARE D

You do not need to enroll in Medicare D. You have creditable coverage under the Town of Canton's health insurance plans. This means that your prescription coverage under the Town of Canton's plan is equal to or better than Medicare D prescription coverage. Because you have creditable coverage under the Town of Canton's plan, you will not be assessed a penalty if you enroll at a later time into Medicare D. (Please note that Medicare D and Medicare B have very different late enrollment penalties)

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE COVERAGE

If you are not eligible for Medicare coverage either under your employment record or your spouse's record, you can still maintain insurance coverage either in the Town of Canton's HMO New England plan or Blue Care Elect plan (PPO).