

# Jeff David Insurance Newsletter

JANUARY - MARCH 2012

## Jeff David's Alphabet Soup of Medicare Insurance Class

Are you or a loved one turning 65 or becoming eligible for Medicare due to disability? Do you have questions about Medicare Part A and Part B? What is a Plan C, Plan F, and let's not forget the part D prescription drug plan. Are you familiar with Medicare PPOs and HMOs? This two hour class will help you master the ABC's of Medicare insurance.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the next class. Don't forget to invite your family, friends and neighbors!

- **Sat. Jan. 21** 10:00am-Noon @JCCC call to register @913-469-2323. Web: [www.jcc.edu](http://www.jcc.edu)
- **Thurs. Jan. 26** 6:30pm-8:30pm @Park Hill School Dist. call Lisa Hall @816-359-4060 to register. Web: [www.communityed.parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://www.communityed.parkhill.k12.mo.us)
- **Sat. Feb. 4** 10:00am-Noon @UMKC Communiversity call Rick Mareske @816-235-1148 to register. Web: [www.umkc.edu/commu](http://www.umkc.edu/commu)
- **Thurs. Feb. 9** 6:30pm-8:30pm @MCC-Blue River – Independence call Carol Brown @816-604-6500 to register. Web: [mccckc.edu](http://mccckc.edu)
- **Thurs. Feb. 16** 6:30pm-8:30pm @Raytown School District call Cathy Betz @816-268-7743 to register. Web: [raytownschools.org](http://raytownschools.org)
- **Tues. Feb. 21** 6:30pm-8:30pm @Excelsior Springs Community Education call Shirley Knoch @816-630-9240 to register. Web: [tigernet.estigers.k12.mo.us/esacc](http://tigernet.estigers.k12.mo.us/esacc)
- **Thurs. Feb. 23** 6:30pm-8:30pm @Park Hill School District call Lisa Hall @816-359-4060 to register.
- **Tues. Feb. 28** 6:30pm-8:30pm@Independence School District call Debra Briggs @816-521-5507 to register. Web: [www.indep.k12.mo.us](http://www.indep.k12.mo.us)
- **Sat. July 10:00am-noon** @JCCC call 913-469-2323 to register. Web: [www.jcc.edu](http://www.jcc.edu)

To register or for more information call or visit the website listed above.

## Medicare Rights

### What's New in 2012?

**Dear Marci:** What will I pay for my Part B premium in 2012?

I have original Medicare, and I've paid \$96.40 for my Part B premium since 2009. Will that change in 2012?

--Lucy (Clarksville, MO)

Dear Lucy,

Your premium, the monthly fee you pay for Medicare coverage, will most likely go up slightly next year. Most people with Medicare Part B outpatient insurance will pay a monthly Part B premium of \$99.90 in 2012. This is an increase of \$3.50 for people who have paid \$96.40 since 2009.

You've paid the same Part B premium amount for the past three years because there was no Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to Social Security benefits in 2010 or 2011. The COLA increases your Social Security check each year to reflect increases in the cost of living. By law, your Social Security check is not allowed to decrease because your Part B premium increased. This is called being "held harmless." Because the amount of your Social Security check stayed the same since 2009, so did the amount deducted for your Part B premium.

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In 2012, the standard Part B premium will be \$99.90. Instead, they will see their premium increase by \$3.50 and will pay the standard 2012 Part B premium of \$99.90.

There are a few exceptions to this. People who were not held harmless or were new to Medicare in 2010 or 2011 paid higher premiums of \$110.50 or \$115.40. Their premium will decrease to \$99.90 in 2012. In addition, people with higher annual incomes – above \$85,000 for a single person and \$170.00 for a couple – pay more for Part B. Their Part B premium in 2012 will be based on their income.

If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, such as an HMO or PPO, you may have to pay an additional premium to the private insurance company that provides your Medicare benefits.

Marci

## [Planning for the Year Ahead: Review Your Insurance Policies](#)



As the New Year is upon us and we are making resolutions, promise yourself to review your insurance policies so you know where you stand. Too often, we only look at our insurance policies when we first get them in the mail. For example, we forget to update our coverage's when we remodel our homes, or when our children begin to drive. Not having a regular insurance checkup can lead to complications later on.

So, while we are making other resolutions, let's resolve to sit down with our agents and get an insurance checkup. At Farmers we call it a Farmers Friendly Review. A Farmers Friendly Review is our way of helping you design an insurance program to meet your ever-changing insurance needs. There may be events in your life, such as a change in marital status, the birth of a child or the purchase of a home that could affect your insurance coverage. So when you have your meeting, be sure to review:

- The members of your family included on your auto insurance and make sure ages match.
- The amount of your deductible/coverage in case of an accident (see previous post [What Is a Deductible?](#))
- Do you have rental car insurance, and for how much?
- What perils are covered in your homeowners insurance? Do you want to add flood or earthquake coverage, both of which are not covered under standard homeowners policies.
- The amount of your deductible for your homeowners insurance.
- Whether or not you need additional insurance for jewelry, guns or collections.
- Also, be sure to talk to your professional insurance agent to understand the replacement cost of your home as this number often gets confused with the market value of your home. See this [posting](#) I wrote last year on the subject.
- Your insurance agent can help you determine your needs and assist you in making the best choices. One of my first posts was about the [value of a personal agent](#).
- Make that appointment today with your agent to talk about which options you feel are best for you.

Article taken from: Farmers Cares by Paul Quinn

Look for the next newsletter in April 2012.