



*My Health.
My Medicare.*

★ ★ TIP SHEET ★ ★

Information Partners Can Use on:

January Premium Withhold Mailing

As of January 2007

As part of a year-end reconciliation process, Medicare compared its payment and enrollment files against Social Security's premium withhold files to ensure that people are having the correct Medicare health plan or prescription drug plan premium amounts withheld from their Social Security payments.

As a result of this process, Medicare is mailing letters to people who selected premium withhold for 2006, but for which the premiums withheld were incorrect. The following letters address the specific issues identified:

- 1. Letter 11287 (owe \$200 or less):** People with Medicare who selected premium withhold for 2006 will be sent this letter for one of two reasons. They will be sent this letter if they owe \$200 or less because either not enough **or** no premiums were withheld from their Social Security payments in 2006. In order to correct the situation, the additional amount owed will be withheld from their February 2007 Social Security payment. If these people chose to continue with premium withhold in 2007, beginning with their March 2007 Social Security payment and going forward, only one month's premium will be withheld for their 2007 plan. This amount will be for the 2007 premium and may be different from the premium amount in 2006. This letter is being sent to approximately 68,000 people with Medicare.
- 2. Letter 11288 (owe more than \$200):** This letter will be sent to people with Medicare whose premiums were not withheld from their Social Security payments in 2006 as they requested and who owe their plan more than \$200 in premiums. Their plan may have already billed them directly or sent them payment instructions. If not, the person should contact their plan to arrange payment of these premiums. If they continued the premium withhold option for 2007, their January and February premium amounts will be withheld from their February 2007 Social Security payment. Beginning with their March 2007 Social Security payment and going forward, only one month's premium will be withheld from each month's Social Security payment. This amount will be for the 2007 premium and may be different from the premium amount in 2006. This letter is being sent to approximately 21,000 people with Medicare.



3. **Letter 11289 (will get a refund):** This letter will be sent to people with Medicare who had more than the correct premiums withheld from their Social Security payments for one or more months during 2006. These people will get a refund of the overpaid premiums from Social Security. If they continued the premium withhold option for 2007, beginning with their February Social Security payment and going forward, only the correct monthly premium will be withheld for their 2007 plan. This amount will be for the 2007 premium and may be different from the premium amount in 2006. This letter is being sent to approximately 28,000 people with Medicare.

Please note that people affected by this issue still have their Medicare health care and drug coverage.

For more information or if you have questions, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.