

**IMPORTANT SHBP MEDICARE INFORMATION  
for RETIREES/DEPENDENTS  
WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE BECAUSE OF AGE OR DISABILITY**

General Accounting Standards Board (GASB) rules now require that public entities account for the cost of their Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), which includes retiree health care coverage. The latest Georgia OPEB valuation is \$16.4 billion in unfunded liability for retiree health care. In order to maintain a fiscally sound status and avoid adverse impact to the State bond ratings, SHBP has implemented strategies that reduce this liability.

SHBP Medicare Policy requires all current and future retirees and spouses eligible for Medicare because of age or disability to enroll in one of the two Medicare Advantage with Prescription Drugs (MAPD) Private Fee for Service (PFFS) options offered through CIGNA and UnitedHealthcare (UHC) in order to continue to receive the state contribution to the cost of premiums. For convenience sake, we will refer to these options as the MA options.

- At age 65 or if disabled under Social Security, premiums are based on the parts of Medicare coverage you have reported to SHBP
- Premiums increase significantly if you are not enrolled in Medicare; therefore it is imperative you enroll when you first become eligible
- Enrollment in Medicare allows you the opportunity to change your health care options if the request is made within 31 days of enrollment in Medicare
- Mail copies of your Medicare card by the first of the month prior to the month in which you become eligible for Medicare) to pay the lowest premium. The address is State Health Benefit Plan, P.O. Box 1990, Atlanta, GA 30301-1990. Premiums will be adjusted once Medicare information is received and processed by SHBP

It is important that you purchase Part B coverage, even if you are not automatically entitled to Medicare Part A because you or your spouse have not paid Medicare taxes for the appropriate number of work quarters. Part B coverage can be purchased at when you become eligible for Medicare if you have resided in the United States for a minimum of five years. If you are not automatically entitled to Medicare Part A under your own work record, you may be eligible under a spouse or former spouse. You should contact the Social Security Administration if you are not sure.

**RETIREE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE (MA) OPTION AND STEPS TO ENROLL**

- Retirees who are enrolled in a minimum of Medicare Part B are eligible for the Medicare Advantage (MA) options with very low premiums
- Your current health plan vendor will send you an application and packet outlining the MA plan if you are turning 65. You may request a packet from both vendors by calling CIGNA at (800) 942-6724 or UnitedHealthcare at (877) 755-5343
- If you wish to enroll in the United Healthcare Medicare Direct MA plan, you may apply over the telephone by calling Medicare Direct MA plan toll-free at (877) 755-5343. Please have your Medicare card available and paper/pen to record your confirmation number. You may also submit a completed application to UnitedHealthcare Medicare Direct if you elect to not enroll telephonically

- If you wish to enroll in the CIGNA MA plan, you must complete and return the application to CIGNA.
- The application will be forwarded to the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for verification of eligibility to enroll in the plan
- If your address is a P.O. Box, CMS will not approve your request. Please send a letter reflecting an updated street address to SHBP at P.O. Box 1990, Atlanta, GA 30301-1990.
- CMS will advise SHBP of your start date into the MA plan and your premiums will be adjusted at that time
- You will remain in your current plan until approved by CMS and your premium will increase if approval is delayed or denied
- If CMS denies your MA coverage, enroll in Part D when you first become eligible to reduce your SHBP premium
- Open Enrollment for Part D plans is November 15 through December 31 if you miss the initial enrollment deadline

### **SHBP MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN BENEFITS**

- These plans include Medicare Part D; therefore, it is not necessary to enroll in Medicare Part D
- CIGNA and UHC each offer these two MA Options: Standard and Premium
- Custom plans designed to limit SHBP retirees out-of-pocket expenses and to provide enhanced benefits over standard Medicare
- Medical out-of-pocket expense limit under the Standard and Premium MA options for covered services (does not include co-pays for office visits or prescription drugs)
- Both options have low premiums
- Provides benefits for hearing aids, vision, podiatrist
- Provider must accept Medicare Reimbursement and agree to the terms and conditions of CIGNA and or UnitedHealthcare
- These plans are national
- If you or your spouse are not eligible for the MA plan because of age, the non eligible individual may select from one of the other SHBP options under the vendor you have selected

### **SHBP NON MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN BENEFITS**

- You may enroll in one of the SHBP non MA options but will pay the entire cost of the premium
- You will receive a discount for each part of Medicare coverage you have. To pay the lowest premium, you should enroll in a Medicare Part D plan when you first become eligible
- You should forward a copy of the enrollment in the Medicare Part D plan to SHBP
- You can decide to enroll in a MA option the first of the month following your request

### **REMINDERS:**

- You will 31 days from the date you become eligible for Medicare to make a change in options
- No refunds can be given for non timely submission of Medicare information to SHBP
- Medicare information and any change in address must be mailed to SHBP at P.O. Box 1990, Atlanta, GA 30301-1990