



Key 2010 Medicare Values Announced

This For Your Information provides key [2010 Medicare values](#) just released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, including the income-adjusted Medicare Part B premiums as prescribed by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA).

Medicare Part A Premium

The premium to purchase Medicare Part A coverage for older Americans and certain disabled persons uninsured under Medicare Part A will be \$461 per month for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2010, up from \$443 per month in 2009. The premium for certain individuals entitled to a reduced monthly premium will be \$254 for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2010, up from \$244 in 2009.

Medicare Part A Deductible and Coinsurance Amounts

The Medicare Part A inpatient hospital deductible will be \$1,100 in 2010, up from \$1,068 in 2009, for up to 60 days of Medicare-covered inpatient hospital care in a benefit period. The Medicare Part A daily coinsurance amounts in 2010 will be \$275 for the 61st through 90th day of hospitalization in a benefit period, \$550 per day for lifetime reserve days, and \$137.50 for the 21st through the 100th day of extended care services in a skilled nursing facility in a benefit period. The corresponding figures for 2009 were \$267, \$534 and \$133.50 respectively.

Medicare Part B Premium

The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B will be \$110.50 in 2010. The 2009 standard premium rate was \$96.40. However, due to a "hold harmless" provision in the law, 73% of beneficiaries will not be subject to the increased premium.

Under the MMA, as amended by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, Medicare beneficiaries with higher incomes must pay a larger portion of their Medicare Part B premium amounts based on a predetermined formula.

BUCK COMMENT. *On September 24, 2009, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would freeze Medicare Part B premiums at 2009 levels (for those subject to the higher premiums) and referred it to the Senate. It is unclear at this time whether this legislation will be enacted. Buck will update you on any developments.*

The following charts show the 2010 Medicare Part B monthly premiums based on income and income tax filing status.

Individual Filing Status	Married Filing Jointly Status	2010 Monthly Premium
Income up to \$85,000	Up to \$170,000	\$110.50
\$85,001 - \$107,000	\$170,001 - \$214,000	\$154.70
\$107,001 - \$160,000	\$214,001 - \$320,000	\$221.00
\$160,001 - \$214,000	\$320,001 - \$428,000	\$287.30
More than \$214,000	More than \$428,000	\$353.60

Married Filing Separately, Lived With Spouse During Tax Year	2010 Monthly Premium
Income up to \$85,000	\$110.50
\$85,001 - \$129,000	\$287.30
More than \$129,000	\$353.60

Medicare Part B Deductible

The Medicare Part B deductible will be \$155.00 for 2010. The deductible in 2009 was \$135.00.

Conclusion

Buck's consultants are available to discuss these 2010 Medicare figures and their implications for your health plans.

This FYI is intended to provide general information. It does not offer legal advice or purport to treat all the issues surrounding any one topic.