

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 10:32 AM

Subject: Re: Tricare for Life

Greg,

I suggest you get this out to your distribution.

The CBO comments that Bob is referring to have been dismissed by both Congress and the Administration.

Shooting at shadows is not smart. We should reserve our remarks for threats that are real.

The Medicare B premium changes I have mentioned are in effect now. Perhaps many have not even noticed.

If you send this out please use the changed wording that I have supplied below.

Harold

MESSAGE

This has been floating around for weeks. Already Congress has said it won't consider the CBO idea, at least for now.

To qualify for Tricare for Life you have to accept Medicare B. Medicare B premiums became means tested at the beginning of this calendar year as a result of language in the MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG, IMPROVEMENT, AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003.

Go to this website to read all about it.

<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10161.html>

An individuals premium can be as high as \$308.30/month/person. This depends on your Maximum Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI).

This was part of the above mentioned 2003 Medicare act that provided the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit. That wasn't all it did. I suspect many of us are paying much higher premiums than the base amount of \$96.40/person/month.

Check what MAGI category you are in, that is what you are paying. Do the arithmetic. If you and your spouse are on Medicare and your MAGI was over \$426,000 in 2007, you are paying 80 cents shy of \$7,400 for your Medicare B and TFL now.

Harold