



RRB News

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No. 17-8

For Immediate Release
November 2017

Medicare Part B Premiums for 2018

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has announced that the standard monthly Part B premium will be \$134.00 in 2018, the same amount as 2017. However, some Medicare beneficiaries will pay slightly less than this amount. By law, Part B premiums for current enrollees cannot increase by more than the amount of the cost-of-living adjustment for social security (railroad retirement tier I) benefits.

Since that adjustment is 2.0 percent in 2018, about one fourth of Medicare beneficiaries will see an increase in their Part B premiums but still pay less than \$134. The standard premium amount will also apply to new enrollees in the program, and certain beneficiaries will continue to pay higher premiums based on their modified adjusted gross income.

The monthly premiums that include income-related adjustments for 2018 will be \$187.50, \$267.90, \$348.30, or \$428.60, depending on the extent to which an individual beneficiary's modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$85,000 (or \$170,000 for a married couple). The highest rate applies to beneficiaries whose incomes exceed \$160,000 (or \$320,000 for a married couple). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services estimates that roughly 5 percent of Medicare beneficiaries pay the larger income-adjusted premiums.

Beneficiaries in Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage plans pay premiums that vary from plan to plan. Beginning in 2011, the Affordable Care Act required Part D beneficiaries whose modified adjusted gross income exceeds the same income thresholds that apply to Part B premiums to also pay a monthly adjustment amount. In 2018, the adjustment amount ranges from \$13.00 to \$74.80.

The Railroad Retirement Board withholds Part B premiums from benefit payments it processes. The agency can also withhold Part C and D premiums from benefit payments if an individual submits a request to his or her Part C or D insurance plan.

The following tables show the income-related Part B premium adjustments for 2018. The Social Security Administration (SSA) is responsible for all income-related monthly adjustment amount determinations. To make the determinations, SSA uses the most recent tax return information available from the Internal Revenue Service. For 2018, that will usually be the beneficiary's 2016 tax return information. If that information is not available, SSA will use information from the 2015 tax return.

Those railroad retirement and social security Medicare beneficiaries affected by the 2018 Part B and D income-related premiums will receive a notice from SSA by December 2017. The notice will include an explanation of the circumstances where a beneficiary may request a new determination. Persons who have questions or would like to request a new determination should contact SSA **after** receiving their notice.

Additional information about Medicare coverage, including specific benefits and deductibles, can be found at Medicare.gov.

(See reverse side for accompanying tables.)

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2018 PART B PREMIUMS

Beneficiaries who file an individual tax return with income:	Beneficiaries who file a joint tax return with income:	Income-related monthly adjustment amount	Total monthly Part B premium amount
Less than or equal to \$85,000	Less than or equal to \$170,000	\$0.00	\$134.00
Greater than \$85,000 and less than or equal to \$107,000	Greater than \$170,000 and less than or equal to \$214,000	\$53.50	\$187.50
Greater than \$107,000 and less than or equal to \$133,500	Greater than \$214,000 and less than or equal to \$267,000	\$133.90	\$267.90
Greater than \$133,500 and less than or equal to \$160,000	Greater than \$267,000 and less than or equal to \$320,000	\$214.30	\$348.30
Greater than \$160,000	Greater than \$320,000	\$294.60	\$428.60

The monthly premium rates paid by beneficiaries who are married, but file a separate return from their spouses and who lived with their spouses at some time during the taxable year, are different. Those rates are as follows:

Beneficiaries who are married, but file a separate tax return, with income:	Income-related monthly adjustment amount	Total monthly Part B premium amount
Less than or equal to \$85,000	\$0.00	\$134.00
Greater than \$85,000	\$294.60	\$428.60