

November 2022 Newsletter

Health/ Insurance --- Joe Polce

Medicare Changes for 2023

There are some changes with Medicare proposed for 2023 that if actually happens would be beneficial for retirees. The Medicare Part B premium is projected to be \$164.90 which is a decrease of \$5.20 from the premium in 2022 (170.10). As I have stated in the past Medicare premiums are income based. Go to Medicare.gov to view the chart of the income based premiums for 2023.

The Medicare annual deductible for 2023 is projected to be \$226.00 which is a decrease of \$7.00 from the annual deductible in 2022 (\$233.00). This deductible will reset on January 1, 2023. The deductible must be paid before medical claims are paid by CareFirst. The dental deductible also resets on January 1, 2023.

Social Security Increase

The annual increase to Social Security income is projected to increase by 8.7% for 2023. This would be the largest increase in many years.

(The changes mentioned above are projections at this time. We won't know the actual changes until we see them on January 1, 2023)

Medicare Open Enrollment

WE will or have started to get inundated with ads on Medicare open enrollment. Please remember that we are enrolled in a Medicare Part D prescription plan through FCPS. WE cannot be enrolled in two Medicare plans. So as good as some of these ads look, enrolling would terminate the FCPS plan.

Human Resources Staff Changes

Julie Ngugen has been appointed to the position of Director of Human Resources and Sarah Minnick has been appointed to the position of Senior Manager Benefits and Wellness. Christine Hubble remains as the retiree contact (301 644 5052)

CareFirst / Johns Hopkins Issue

The contract dispute between CareFirst and Johns Hopkins medical practice has been settled. Earlier Johns Hopkins threatened to stop accepting CareFirst insurance as an in-network client. In fact, several Johns Hopkins patients received letters from Johns Hopkins indicating that December 9, 2022 would be the effective day. The dispute centered on the amount of money CareFirst paid on claims. Hopkins decided to hold their patients hostage as a bargaining chip. The fact is that both parties needed each other. Finally after much agony, the dispute was settled. Hopkins will remain as an in-network practice. At least until the end of this contract term.