



IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE PRE-65 RETIREE HEALTH PLAN

MEDICARE BECOMES YOUR PRIMARY INSURANCE AS SOON AS YOU BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE

If you are currently covered under an SRNS/BSRA Health Benefit Plan as an employee, retiree, or dependent; you may not be aware of the impact to your health coverage when you become disabled and subsequently eligible for Medicare.

COVERED UNDER THE ACTIVE PLAN?

As long as you remain under the ACTIVE benefit plan, BCBS is your primary insurance. You may want to waive Part B at that time. However, if you have End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) there are special rules concerning Medicare. If you have ESRD and Medicare entitled you need to enroll in Medicare Part B. However; at the time you move to the Pre-65 retiree plan, you should ensure that Medicare Part B is in effect the same date the Pre-65 Medical plan starts. If not, BCBS will not pay what Medicare would have paid.

COVERED UNDER THE PRE-65 RETIREE PLAN?

Medicare automatically becomes your primary form of Health insurance coverage. This means that **you must enroll in Medicare Part B**. Your Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) coverage becomes your secondary form of insurance. Note that you do not need to enroll in a Medicare Part D drug plan, as the BCBS plan will continue to provide prescription coverage until you reach age 65. Your BCBS premiums will remain the same.

This information does not reflect a change in SRNS/SRMC/BSRA benefits. This is a Medicare requirement that has been incorporated into our medical plans for many years. You can find this information listed in the: Medicare annual Open Enrollment booklets, the SRNS/SRMC/BSRA annual Open Enrollment booklets, as well as the Pre-65 Retiree Health Plan Summary Plan Description (SPD), which can be found on the internet under www.srs.gov/careers/benefits/retirees.

When you become eligible for Medicare, you will be sent a Medicare Part A and Part B card. You will be asked if you wish to Elect Part B. **DO NOT DECLINE THIS COVERAGE**. If you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when initially eligible, the Social Security Administration applies monetary penalties and waiting periods for delayed enrollments. In addition, BCBS will pay claims as secondary, regardless of whether you enrolled in Medicare Part B or not. This is referred to as the “Phantom B” or “carve-out” provision, as referenced in the Pre-65 Retiree Health Plan SPD. The Plan also allows BCBS to go back twelve months and retroactively re-process claims as secondary payer.

If you (or your spouse or covered dependent child) become disabled and have questions about your insurance, contact the SRNS Service Center at Service-Center@srs.gov, (803) 725-7772 or (800) 368-7333 or Cary Holbert, cary.holbert@srs.gov, 803-679-3630, Benefits Manager.