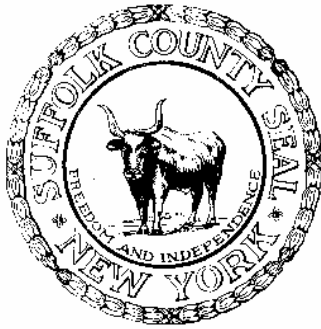


22-08



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ALL-EMPLOYEES MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 1, 2008

IMPORTANT REMINDER

MEDICARE PART A AND PART B

**RETIREES WHO ARE 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AS WELL AS
DISABLED RETIREES, WHO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE,
MUST ENROLL IN MEDICARE PART A AND PART B AS SOON AS
ELIGIBLE OR RISK LOSS OF MEDICAL BENEFITS**

**IN ADDITION, IF YOU LEAVE SUFFOLK COUNTY SERVICE ON A
DISABILITY RETIREMENT AND ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE,
YOU MUST ENROLL IN MEDICARE, THE FEDERAL HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION, AS SOON AS YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO DO SO,
EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT YET 65 YEARS OLD.**

At the time of your eligibility, you must enroll in both Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B. In order to enroll, simply retain the Medicare Card sent to you by the Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and do nothing else. **Otherwise, you risk substantial loss of medical benefits normally covered under the EMHP.**

Your dependents must also be enrolled in Medicare as soon as they become eligible.

Suffolk County will reimburse you for the usual cost of the Medicare Part B premiums for you and your covered eligible dependents unless reimbursement is received from another source.

Many Suffolk County employees, who are eligible for a Disability Retirement, might also be eligible for a Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) allowance, a monthly benefit paid to disabled individuals under the Social Security system. After 24 months of SSDI eligibility, you automatically become eligible for, **and must enroll in**, Medicare Parts A and B. In order to enroll, simply retain the Medicare Card sent to you by the Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and do nothing else. If you are not eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) allowance, you must enroll in Medicare when

you are 65 years of age or if you subsequently become eligible for Medicare because you become eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

If you do not enroll in Medicare Parts A and B when you are first eligible, your health benefits will be drastically reduced. You will be responsible for the full cost of medical services that Medicare would have covered because EMHP will not provide any benefits for coverage available under Medicare.

A dependent of a retired employee, (your spouse, domestic partner, or child) who is covered under your policy must also be enrolled in both Medicare Part A and Part B when first eligible. A Domestic Partner of an active employee who is covered under your policy must also enroll in both Medicare Part A and Part B when first eligible. Your dependent is eligible for Medicare:

- regardless of age, when they have been classified by Social Security as disabled for more than 24 months, or
- regardless of age, when they have end stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure), or
- if you are retired, when they are 65 years of age or older and are not otherwise covered for health benefits by virtue of their employment.

Please forward a photocopy of your Medicare card and/or your dependent's Medicare card to the Employee Benefits Unit, Suffolk County Department of Civil Service/Human Resources, P.O. Box 6100, Hauppauge, NY 11788-0099. The Employee Benefits Unit will arrange to reimburse you for you and/or your dependent's usual cost of Medicare Part B premiums, unless you or your dependent receives reimbursement from another source.


JEFFREY W. SZABO
Deputy County Executive & Chief of Staff

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One copy per employee