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MEDICARE INFORMATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
For Retired LACERS Members and Dependents Over Age 64
(Only this page to be returned to LACERS)

Member: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN (Last 4 digits): \_\_\_\_\_

I have received the literature listed below that outlines the procedures for obtaining Medicare. I understand I must read it carefully. If I have questions, I may contact LACERS Health Staff at (800) 779-8328 or LACERS.health@lacers.org.

- Medicare Information Sheet (Parts A and B)
• Medicare Part D Information Sheet

Initial

I understand that to continue participating in a LACERS medical plan, I, and/or my dependents, must submit proof of Medicare to LACERS by age 65. I also understand that it is my responsibility to:

- Telephone Social Security at (800) 772-1213 to make an appointment at a local office to apply for Medicare insurance coverage
• Submit proof of Medicare coverage to LACERS before my and/or my dependent's 65th birthday
• Review LACERS Health Benefits Guide and change medical plans as necessary upon turning age 65
• Complete a senior plan enrollment or election form for my selected medical plan upon turning age 65
• Submit proof of Medicare Part A, only if I qualify to receive it premium-free
• Maintain Medicare Part B by paying the premiums to Social Security every three months or by a deduction from my Social Security check
• Not enroll in Medicare Part D separately from my LACERS medical plan (if I enroll separately, my LACERS medical plan will be terminated)

Initial

I was informed that if I fail to enroll in/maintain Medicare (Parts A and B or B only) I will:

- Lose my LACERS medical plan coverage for myself and any dependent(s)
• Lose my LACERS medical subsidy
• Lose my Part B Reimbursement (if I have both Medicare Parts A and B)

Los Angeles Administrative Code §4.1111(f)

Initial

I was informed that if my dependent(s) fail to enroll in/maintain Medicare (Parts A and B or B only) they will lose their LACERS medical plan coverage.

Initial

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## MEDICARE PARTS A & B INFORMATION SHEET

### LACERS Medicare Enrollment Requirement for Retirees & Dependents Turning Age 65

In order to qualify for a LACERS medical subsidy and be eligible for coverage in a LACERS-sponsored medical plan at age 65 or older, the Los Angeles Administrative Code Sections 4.1111(f), 4.1112(h) and/or 4.1115(d) and the LACERS Board of Administration Rules (HBA 10.0) require you (the Retired Member), your Eligible Surviving Spouse/Domestic Partner (Survivor), and your dependents to:

- Enroll in Medicare Part B and provide LACERS with proof of your Medicare Part B enrollment (e.g., a copy of your Medicare card or an eligibility letter from Social Security);
- Enroll in Medicare Part A if you are eligible for it premium-free (i.e., at no cost to you);
- Complete a Senior Enrollment Form (Contact LACERS for the forms); and,
- Pay your Medicare Part B premiums on time (Medicare will charge you and/or your dependent(s) directly for your Medicare Part B premiums).

LACERS recommends that you enroll in Medicare Part B three months prior to turning age 65 in order to avoid a lapse of your LACERS medical coverage.

You are not required to purchase Medicare Part A if you are not eligible for it premium free. However, you may be eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A through your spouse's eligibility for Medicare Part A or your earnings history with Social Security. Contact Social Security at (800) 772-1213 or TTY (800) 325-0778 to make an appointment to apply for Medicare. They will assist you in determining your eligibility and accrued credits for Medicare Part A.

Failure to enroll in Medicare Part B or to pay your Medicare Part B premiums on time will result in the termination of your LACERS medical subsidy and medical coverage.

### Retiring after Age 65

If you are retiring from City service after age 65, and/or your dependent(s) are over age 65, Medicare allows you and/or your dependents to defer enrollment in Medicare Part B until you retire. This is known as the Special Enrollment Period. You must complete additional forms (available at LACERS) when you retire and apply for Medicare.

### Medicare & Living Outside the United States

You may not need to enroll in Medicare if you reside permanently outside the U.S. and its territories. However, if you later decide to reside in the U.S., Social Security may penalize you if you did not enroll in Medicare by age 65 or allowed your Medicare premiums to lapse. Contact Social Security regarding Medicare rules, regulations or penalties that may affect your medical plan coverage.

**(OVER)**

## **Medicare Part B Reimbursement for Retired Members with Medicare Parts A & B**

The Los Angeles Administrative Code (Sections 4.1105, 4.1113 and 4.1123) states that qualified Retired Members enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B who are participating in a LACERS Senior medical plan or the Medical Plan Premium Reimbursement Program (MPRP) may be entitled to reimbursement of their **basic** Medicare Part B premiums by LACERS. The Medicare Part B basic premium does not include any IRMAA portion of your premium.

LACERS beneficiaries, such as a spouse, domestic partner, or Eligible Survivor, are not eligible for reimbursement of their Medicare Part B premiums.

LACERS does not reimburse the basic Medicare Part B premiums for Members who are enrolled in the Anthem Blue Cross PPO Out-of-Country plan.

Also, Members will not be eligible to receive reimbursement of their Medicare Part B premiums from LACERS if their LACERS medical coverage is terminated due to a lapse in payment of their Medicare Part B premiums.

## **Medicare Part B Reimbursement & IRMAAs**

Because of federal legislation that became effective in 2007, higher-income earning Medicare enrollees are now required to pay higher Medicare Part B premiums that consist of the Part B basic premium rate and an Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA).

LACERS does not apply your medical subsidy toward or reimburse to you any Medicare-related IRMAA costs.

Failure to pay your IRMAAs will result in the termination of your LACERS medical subsidy and medical coverage.

## **Termination of your LACERS Plan**

If you default on your Medicare Part B premiums and are terminated from your LACERS health plan, your (and your dependents') Medicare Part D will also be cancelled. Social Security may assess lifetime penalties when you re-enroll in Medicare Part D.

## **CMS Medicare Plan Requirement**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) allows you to have only one Medicare Advantage plan. If you enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan outside of your LACERS medical plan, you may lose your LACERS medical coverage, even if you enroll in a plan from the same insurance company but sponsored by a different organization (e.g., the Los Angeles County Employees' Retirement Association Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage plan).

Consider the Medicare Easy Pay Program to avoid a lapse in coverage.  
Call 1-800-MEDICARE or 1-800-633-4227 for more information.

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## MEDICARE PART D INFORMATION SHEET

Medicare Part D is a federal program that subsidizes the prescription drugs costs of Medicare enrollees in the United States. It became effective January 1, 2006 as part of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA).

### Medicare Part D and Your LACERS Medical Plan

Medicare Part D has been included as part of your LACERS medical plan and equals or exceeds the Standard Benefit under Medicare Part D and satisfies the Medicare creditable coverage requirement.

#### Medicare Part D Enrollment Requirements

*For Medicare-eligible subscribers in Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage, SCAN, or UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage HMO:* You are enrolled automatically in Medicare Part D when you enroll in your LACERS medical plan.

*For Medicare-eligible subscribers in Anthem Blue Cross HMO, PPO, or Anthem Medicare Advantage LPPO:* You must assign your Medicare Part D to your LACERS medical plan. Contact LACERS for the appropriate form to complete.

### Termination of Your LACERS Plan

Do not enroll in Medicare Part D separately from your LACERS medical plan. Enrolling or disenrolling in Medicare Part D on your own or through another group plan may cause your LACERS medical coverage to be terminated.

*Exception:* If you are enrolled in LACERS' Medical Premium Reimbursement Program (MPRP) and your non-LACERS plan does not include Medicare Part D, you may enroll in supplemental Medicare Part D insurance in order to maintain creditable coverage (i.e., the Standard Benefit under Medicare Part D).

In addition, if you default on paying your Medicare Part B premiums and are terminated from your LACERS health plan, your and your dependents' Medicare Part D will also be cancelled. The Social Security Administration may assess lifetime penalties when you re-enroll in Medicare Part D.

### Medicare & Living Outside the United States

You may not need to enroll in Medicare if you reside permanently outside the U.S. and its territories. However, if you later decide to reside in the U.S., Social Security may penalize you if you did not enroll in Medicare by age 65 or allowed your Medicare premiums to lapse. Contact Social Security regarding Medicare rules, regulations or penalties that may affect your medical plan coverage.

## **Medicare Part D Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAAs)**

On January 1, 2011, as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, higher income-earning Medicare enrollees must now pay an Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) for their Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. Social Security will notify you about your Medicare premiums and if you are required to pay Medicare Part D IRMAAs.

If you receive Social Security benefits, Social Security will deduct your IRMAA from your Social Security check. If you do not receive a Social Security check, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will bill you directly for your IRMAAs.

In addition, if you are enrolled in LACERS' Medical Premium Reimbursement Program, LACERS may reimburse you for the supplemental Medicare Part D basic premiums you pay in order to maintain creditable Medicare Part D coverage. However, your LACERS reimbursement will not include any IRMAAs.

### **Reminder**

Although the Medicare Part D *basic* premium is already included in the senior plan premiums of LACERS' medical plans, the IRMAA portion of Medicare Part D is not. You must pay any Medicare Part B and Part D IRMAAs assessed by Social Security. Because LACERS requires you to maintain your Medicare enrollment in order to continue receiving your medical plan premium subsidy, failure to pay your IRMAAs will result in the termination of your LACERS medical benefits.

## **Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy**

You may be able to get extra help to pay for your prescription drug premiums and costs. To see if you qualify for extra help, call CMS (the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day/7 days a week; or the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778; or your state Medicaid office.

### **ADA NOTICE**

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.