

Social Security Questions, Answers

Q. I thought that as long as I was receiving care from a participating hospital or health facility, Medicare would pay for my care. My neighbor says this isn't always true. Is he right?

A. Under the law, Medicare cannot pay for care that is not reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury, even if the care is provided by a hospital or other health facility participating in Medicare. See "Your Medicare Handbook" for a list of major services and supplies for which Medicare generally does not pay. If you don't have a copy, you can get one at any social security office.

Q. My mother just had a major operation, and since she still needs skilled care, her doctor is transferring her from the hospital to a skilled nursing facility. He has arranged for an ambulance to take her to the facility. Will Medicare pay for the ambulance?

A. Medicare's medical insurance can help pay for ambulance transportation only if (1) the ambulance, equipment, and personnel meet Medicare requirements, and (2) transportation in any other vehicle could endanger the patient's health. Under these conditions, medical insurance can help pay for ambulance transportation from a patient's home to a hospital or skilled nursing facility, between hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, or from a hospital or skilled nursing facility to a patient's home.

Q. I'm going into the hospital next month for surgery. How much of the bill will my Medicare hospital insurance pay?

A. It will pay for all covered expenses during the first 60 days of each benefit period except for the first \$124. You are responsible for that. Should you be confined for a longer period, your

hospital insurance would pay for all covered expenses for the next 30 days except for \$31 a day.

Q. I didn't sign up for the medical insurance part of Medicare when I first had the chance. Can I do so now?

A. You can sign up during the first 3 months of any year. If you get social security payments, the medical insurance premium will be deducted from your monthly check.

Q. I live alone in a rented room and my only income is \$150 a month from social security. Can I get supplemental security income?

A. If you're 65 or over, blind, or disabled, and your resources are limited, you may be eligible for some supplemental security income (SSI) payment. Call or write any social security office for information about applying for SSI payments.

Q. I'll do some babysitting this month and should earn about \$100 in December. How will this affect my SSI payments, my only income?

A. You will lose \$1 in supplemental security income payments for each \$2 you earn above \$85 in a month. If you earn \$100, then you would

lose \$7.50 SSI. You must let the people at social security know exactly how much you make.

Q. I get the gold-colored SSI check. I have been living by myself, but I just moved in with my daughter down the hill. I am still using my same box number. Do I have to let Social Security know I've moved?

A. Yes. Any change in your residence, such as a move to a friend or relative's home, a hospital, or a nursing home, must be reported. These changes must be reported even if the mailing

address remains the same. Q. My husband receives an SSI check. I work, and just got a raise. Is it necessary for me to report this to Social Security?

A. Yes. The amount of your wages affects the amount of your husband's check. Any change in the income of anybody who lives with a person getting SSI must be reported.

Q. I get disability pension from my company, but social security turned me down for disability payments. How come?

A. The rules in the social

security law for deciding whether a person is disabled differ from rules in some other Government and private disability programs. People who qualify under another program may not be eligible for social security disability benefits. In order to receive social security disability you must be disabled to do any kind of substantial gainful work for at least 12 months.

Q. My daughter is 16 and has a severe kidney ailment. Since she has never worked and neither my wife nor I get social security benefits, is there any way my daughter

can get help from Medicare? A. If either you or your wife has worked long enough under social security, Medicare can help pay the bills for your daughter if she has permanent kidney failure. Call or write any social security office for more information.

Q. I have Medicare and want to know if the cost of new dental plates is covered?

A. Medicare helps pay for dental care only if it involves surgery of the jaw or related structures or setting fractures of the jaw or facial bones. Care in connection with the

treatment, filling, removal, or replacement of teeth is not covered, nor is root canal therapy or surgery for impacted teeth.

Q. I'll retire in March and am worried about getting my social security checks because of recent thefts where I live. W(at can I do?

A. You can have your social security checks deposited directly into your savings or checking account at a bank or similar financial organization. Ask your financial organization for more information about direct deposit of social security checks.

Payment Must Be Declared

Employment Security Commission today reminded area residents who received unemployment insurance payments during 1976 that they are responsible for declaring such payments as personal income on their 1976 North Carolina income tax returns.

James Acuff, Manager of the ESC's Spruce Pine Job Service office, stated that UI claimants are informed at the time of their initial claims interview that they are solely responsible for maintaining UI records for tax purposes.

"Unfortunately, our local office cannot keep track of every claimant's payment record," Acuff said. "Moreover, we simply don't have the time or staff to provide claimants with earnings statements."

To those UI recipients who failed to keep detailed records, Acuff suggested that an accurate income figure could be found by multiplying the claimant's weekly benefit amount by the number of weeks he or she received it.

Acuff also pointed out that while unemployment insurance benefits are subject to state income taxes, they are not taxed by the Federal Government.



"This is the greatest governmental system in the world. Our press has helped to make it so. I am not here just to butter up the press. I do not think it is perfect. But, it is the best press in the world and it is doing a fine job. It is an integral part of our democracy." So said a frequent critic of the press, former President Truman.

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FOOD STAMPS WELCOME

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| <p>41-DRI PAPER TOWELS 2 \$69¢</p> <p>LIBBYS 5oz... VIENNAS 3 \$1.00</p> <p>STARKIST 6 1/2oz... TUNA 49¢</p> <p>GREER...3oz CAN... APPLESAUCE 4 \$1.00</p> | <p>IMPORTED FINE CHINA ENGLISH GARDEN CUP WITH EACH 43¢ PURCH. 69¢</p> | <p>US CHOICE WESTERN CHUCK ROAST 59¢ lb.</p> <p>US CHOICE BONELESS CHUCK ROAST 99¢ lb.</p> <p>PACK-O-10... 8oz... RIBEYE STEAKS \$1.99 PK.</p> <p>OSCAR MAYER... FRANKS MEAT OR BEEF lb. 99¢</p> <p>SHANNANDOAH TURKEY ROASTS 2lb. WHITE MEAT \$2.79 AND DARK \$2.69 DARK MEAT \$2.19</p> |
| <p>SWALTYNEY... REG. OR THICK BACON \$1.19 lb.</p> <p>SWALTYNEY... REG. SAUSAGE HOT 79¢ lb.</p> <p>SWALTYNEY... 12oz. BOLOGNA 79¢</p> <p>BONELESS SMOKED HAM ROASTS lb. \$1.49</p> <p>BONELESS SMOKED HAM SLICES \$1.69 lb.</p> <p>TENDER CHUCK STEAKS lb. 79¢</p> <p>LEAN BONELESS STEW BEEF \$1.29 lb.</p> <p>US CHOICE BONELESS... SHOULDERS \$1.09 lb.</p> <p>MARKET STYLE BACON lb. 79¢</p> | <p>STANDING RIB ROAST \$1.59 lb.</p> <p>1/4 SLICED PORK LOIN 99¢ lb.</p> <p>3 lb. CAN. CRISCO 99¢</p> <p>5 lb. DOMINO SUGAR 69¢</p> <p>5 lb. SD. BISCUIT FLOUR 59¢</p> <p>DUKES... QT. JAR MAYONNAISE 79¢</p> | <p>SEALTEST... 24oz. CTN... COTTAGE CHEESE 95¢</p> <p>TROPICANA... 1/2 GAL... 69¢</p> <p>ORANGE JUICE 69¢</p> <p>CHAMP... 25lb. BAG... \$2.99</p> <p>DOG FOOD DAISY... 8oz. BAG... 59¢</p> <p>POTATO CHIPS CAPTAIN KIDD... 3lb. JAR \$1.79</p> <p>PEANUT BUTTER MDI... 1lb. QTRS... 3 \$1.00</p> <p>MARGARINE 3 lbs \$1.00</p> <p>64oz. ALL FLAVORS... COTT COLA NO DEPOSIT MDI... 1 1/2 lb. BREAD OR HAMBURGER BUNS 8pk 3 \$1.00</p> <p>LAURA LYNN TALL... CAN MILK 4 \$1.00</p> |
| <p>FINE FARE SALE</p> <p>CATSUP QUART BOTTLE 65¢</p> <p>PORK & BEANS 300 CAN 4 \$1.00</p> <p>BEETS CUT OR SLICED 303 CAN 4 \$1.00</p> <p>BEETS WHOLE 303 CAN 3 \$1.00</p> <p>KRAUT CHOPPED 303 CAN 4 \$1.00</p> <p>CORN WH. KER. OR CREAM 303 CAN 4 \$1.00</p> <p>GREEN BEANS FRENCH CUT OR 4 \$1.00 303</p> <p>MIXED VEGETABLES 3 \$1.00 303</p> <p>PEACHES SLICED OR HALVES 303 2/69¢</p> <p>FRUIT COCKTAIL 303 CAN 2/79¢</p> <p>PEARS HALVES 303 CAN 2/69¢</p> <p>TOMATO SAUCE 8oz CAN 6 \$1.00</p> | | |
| <p>FROZEN FOODS</p> <p>5lb. TATER BOY... FRENCH FRIES 99¢</p> <p>PEPPERIDGE FARMS 17oz. LAYERCAKES \$1.19</p> <p>MRS. SMITH'S 26oz. APPLE PIE 79¢</p> <p>GREEN GIANT... 10oz. NIBLET CORN CREAM CORN 39¢</p> <p>MIXED VEGES. LEAF SPINACH 39¢</p> <p>PETRITZ 2 1/2 PK. PIE SHELS 39¢</p> <p>TOTINA CLASSIC PIZZA 22 1/2 \$1.49</p> <p>LIBBYS ORANGE JUICE 6oz 4 \$1.00</p> <p>MORTON... 2lb. FRIED CHICKEN \$1.79</p> | | |
| <p>10 lb. VENT VO WAIRE POTATOES 89¢</p> | | |

