



*"Quality Care Close to Home"*

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SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY NEWS  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Health and Human Services Announces 2002 Medicare Premium, Deductible Rates**

Medicare beneficiaries will be paying higher premiums and deductibles in 2003. The deductible for Medicare Part A, which pays for inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility and some home health care, increased by 3.5 percent, to \$840. The Part A deductible applies only to those enrolled in the original fee-for-service Medicare program. Those who enroll in private Medicare+Choice plans may not be affected by the Part A increase, and may receive additional benefits with different cost-sharing arrangements.

According to Health and Human Services, most of Medicare's 40.4 million beneficiaries are enrolled in the optional Part B. Nearly 90 percent also have some form of supplemental coverage to reduce out-of-pocket medical costs.

The monthly premium paid by beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Part B, which covers physician services, durable medical equipment and other items, will be \$58.70, an increase of 8.7 percent.

The Part A deductible is the beneficiary's only cost for up to 60 days of Medicare-covered inpatient hospital care. However, for extended Medicare-covered hospital stays, beneficiaries must pay an additional \$210 per day for 61 days through 90 in 2003, and \$420 per day for hospital stays beyond the 90<sup>th</sup> day in a benefit period. For 2002, per day payment for 61 through 90 was \$203, and \$406 for beyond 90 days.