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Newsletter for August 2021

It looks like the COLA for 2022 Social Security will be approximately 6%. This will be the biggest COLA since 2009. We won't have the exact COLA until October 15th. Both August and September will be used in the computation.

The COLA for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) will be the same as the Social Security COLA. The COLA for the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) will be the CSRS COLA minus 1%.

By the end of September, the Supplemental Medicare Plans for 2022 will be on line at [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov). The open season for changing plans will be from October 15th to December 7th. You will soon be seeing your Medicare experts like Joe Namath extolling the virtues of plans. These washed-up personalities will be peddling Advantage Plans. Advantages Plans are Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO) affiliated with Medicare. Medicare pays the plans a monthly fee for each person enrolled in a plan. The monthly cost to the enrollee is usually \$0 to \$20. The member must pay a small co pay for services the member receives. The member usually receives a drug plan (Part D of Medicare) for free. Each drug plan is different with their own co pay amount and restrictions on where you can obtain the medication. Many plans require the member to get the drugs by mail. Be very careful about the co pays. There are several genetic drugs that cost well over \$100,000 per year. Except for emergencies, the member must go only to doctors

and facilities approved by the HMO. It is a good idea to find out the doctors and facilities you can use.

Many Advantage Plans pay the Medicare Part B premium for the member.

Federal employees and retirees can enroll in or change health plans from November 9th to December 13th. The premiums for the plans will be available approximately September 30th. The descriptions of coverage will be available approximately November 1. Federal retirees who are age 65 or older may enroll in Advantage Plans and drop out of the FEHB plans They can get back into FEHB during an open season. You must be a member of Part B of Medicare to take an Advantage Plans.

If the FEHB member has Part B of Medicare, the member can take a lower cost plan from the carrier. The lower premium is about the same as the higher premium plan minus the cost of Part B of Medicare.

I know this is a lot to digest. If you have questions, call me at my new number 619-302-7135. I am NOT dead!