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Changes to Medicare Prescription Drug Plans for 2010

EDWARDSVILLE, IL, September 1, 2009 - According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), some persons currently enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug program may need to change Part D plans when open enrollment begins later this year

In particular, beneficiaries who receive the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) to pay for their premiums will need to move to a new plan if they wish to remain in a zero-premium plan in 2010. CMS says all individuals in this situation will be notified of their options.

CMS estimates that the average monthly premium for standard Part D coverage in 2010 will be \$30, an increase of \$2 over the 2009 average premium of \$28. If a person receiving the LIS is enrolled in a Part D plan which has a premium higher than the designated subsidy amount, that individual must change to a lower-cost plan or be responsible for paying the difference in premium.

Premiums and benefits for Medicare Advantage plans and more details about the Part D plans will be announced in September, as well as the list of plans that are not renewing their contracts with Medicare for 2010.

LIS amounts vary from region to region. More information, and a full listing of the 2010 subsidies, may be see by visiting <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareAdvtgSpecRateStats>

FACT was formed under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia in 1984, and currently serves more than 1 million consumers nationwide. Additional information on FACT may be found in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*, and by visiting the association's Web site (www.usafact.org). Informative, unbiased news bulletins are regularly disseminated by FACT to help its members remain current on matters which might seriously impact their lives. In addition to publishing consumer-related reports, the association provides more than 30 benefits for its members, ranging from [medical insurance](#) and [dental discounts](#) to [prescription drug savings](#) and [scholarships](#). FACT's administrative office is located at 318 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025.