Medicare Annual Verification Notices: Frequently Asked Questions

Why did I receive another letter about my income-related monthly adjustment amounts for Medicare premiums for this year?

You received another letter from Social Security because your income-related monthly adjustment amounts for this year changed. Social Security usually uses two-year-old data that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provides to us to determine your income-related monthly adjustment amounts. In some situations, we use three-year-old data, or we base our decision on tax information you provided.

We use your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) from your federal income tax return to determine your income-related monthly adjustment amounts. Your MAGI is the total of your adjusted gross income and tax-exempt interest income.

Each fall, when we ask the IRS for information to determine next year’s premiums, we ask for tax information to verify your reports of changes affecting your income-related monthly adjustment amounts, if any. We also ask the IRS for your two-year-old MAGI if we’ve temporarily used three-year-old MAGI. When we find a difference between the IRS information and information we previously used, and the difference results in a change in your income-related monthly adjustment amounts, we notify you of the change.

Can I appeal my income-related monthly adjustment amounts?

Yes. If we determine you must pay more for your Medicare Part B or Medicare prescription drug coverage because of your income, and you disagree, you have the right to request an appeal, also known as a reconsideration. You’ll need to request an appeal in writing by completing a Request for Reconsideration (SSA-561-U2). Here’s how:

- Find the appeal form online at www.socialsecurity.gov/online;
- Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to request an appeal form; or
- Request an appointment with your local Social Security office, if you need help completing the form.

If your income has gone down due to specific situations, or if you filed an amended tax return, you can ask for a new decision without having to file an appeal. Read our publication, Medicare Premiums: Rules for Higher-Income Beneficiaries (SSA Publication No. 05-10536), for more details about requesting a new decision. You don’t have to file an appeal to get a new decision. For more information about how to appeal your income-related monthly adjustment amount, please read Social Security’s publication, Medicare Premiums: What You Can Do If You Think Your Income-Related Premium Is Incorrect (SSA Publication No. 05-10125).

When will I get my refund?

If you got a letter from Social Security notifying you that you’d be getting a refund of the income-related monthly adjustment amounts, you should receive your refund within 30 days of receipt of your letter. If 30 days have passed from the date of your notice, and you haven’t received your refund, please call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), or visit your local Social Security office.

Can I appeal Social Security’s decision about the past-due income-related monthly adjustment amount I owe?

Yes, you can appeal the decision. You can call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), and we’ll send you a Request for Reconsideration (Form SSA-561-U2). When you call, we’ll tell you what proofs you should submit with your appeal request. If you need help completing the form, we can schedule an appointment with your local Social Security office.

I don’t agree with the tax information the IRS gave Social Security. Can I bring in a copy of my tax return?

If you don’t agree with the tax information the IRS gave us, you’ll need to provide proof that you have more accurate information. Acceptable proof is:

- Your amended tax return, along with a letter from the IRS accepting your amended return or an IRS transcript;
If I owe a past-due income-related monthly adjustment amount, can I pay the amount I owe by installments?

Yes, anyone who owes money on their Medicare premiums for previous months and who can’t pay it in a lump sum, can pay by installments. If you wish to pay by installments, please call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), or visit your local Social Security office.

If you want to report a life-changing event, call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), or visit your local Social Security office.

Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to contact us anytime, anywhere is to visit www.socialsecurity.gov where you can also take care of some business with an online my Social Security account.

Call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 or at 1-800-325-0778 (TTY) if you’re deaf or hard of hearing. We can answer your calls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., week days. Or use our automated services via telephone, 24 hours a day. We look forward to serving you.