

OSHIIP News This Week: June 24, 2016

Send us Your OSHIIP Reporting Forms: Click below for our EZ forms. Save these files on your computer and use your keyboard to complete. Fax or email reports to our office for recording.

- As a Word document you can edit:

[EZ Client Contact Form](#)

[EZ Public and Media Form](#)

- As a .pdf file you can edit:

[EZ CCF in editable pdf](#)

[EZ PAM in editable pdf](#)

Add to your forms any dollars \$aved for your client – or reply to this message with dollars \$aved.

Or enter your own counseling work at the national [Medicare reporting site](#).

OSHIIP Stats for Week ending June 17, 2016

- Handled 707 Incoming Calls
- Entered 1,225 Client Contact Forms
- Conducted 17 Public and Media Events
- \$ Saved Ohioans \$341,503 for the week (\$8,716,713 for the calendar year)

OPERS Humana Interim Plan Ending: Ohio Public Employee Retirees (OPERS) who are starting their Medicare Part A July 1, received [this letter](#) in the mail recently regarding the end of their group medical/pharmacy coverage as of June 30, 2016. The letter instructs them on the steps needed to get another plan in place. Also, the letter states that the current prescription drug plan does meet creditable coverage but is not classified as a Part D plan. Therefore Medicare may misinterpret this is a break or gap in drug coverage. These OPERS retirees will not face a late enrollment penalty. If a Part D plan requires proof of creditable coverage, use [this letter](#) from OPERS.

If there are still problems, call the OSHIIP hotline and one of our analysts can file a complaint with the plan.

Transcripts now available for OPERS videos: The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System uses video communication to educate members. Now those who watch the videos can read along with the transcripts via closed captioning. OPERS has translated most of the videos stored on the [YouTube channel](#) dating back to the beginning of 2015. This should help hard of hearing clients who are OPERS retirees.

Ohio AG Announces Grant to Provide Free Legal Help for Older Ohioans: This month, Pro Seniors and Ohio's legal aids were awarded a grant by the Ohio Attorney General's office to support a telephone-based legal hotline and direct civil legal guidance and assistance to Ohioans age 60 and older. [Here](#) is the official press release and more about Pro Seniors invaluable service to older Ohioans.

Medicare Trustees Report: The Medicare Trustees projected that the trust fund financing Medicare's hospital insurance coverage will remain fully funded until 2028, two years earlier than last year's report.

Based on early data showing the potential for a small Social Security cost of living adjustment, the Trustees Report projects that Medicare's "hold harmless" protection will be triggered again this year. This would result in a small increase in Part B premiums for about 70 percent of Medicare beneficiaries, with increases in Part B costs spread over the remaining 30 percent, which includes individuals enrolling in Part B for the first time in 2017, those that do not receive a Social Security benefit or who are directly billed for their premium, Medicare and Medicaid dual-eligible beneficiaries, and current enrollees who pay an income related higher premium.

However, this is a projection based on preliminary data. The final Social Security cost of living adjustment will be announced in the fall based on updated data. The 2017 Medicare Part B premiums, which typically differs from these projections, will be announced later in the year. You can read the full report [here](#).

Register for an OSHIP Volunteer Refresher Training Webinar:

To attend, call 1-877-820-7831 and enter passcode 896960.

Thursday July 14, 2016 – Ohio School Employee Retirement System (SERS)

10am: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7946117031504480004>

2pm: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2185660164865121028>

Tuesday August 23, 2016 – VA Benefits

10am: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4596149193543602947>

2pm: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5049839577001195011>

Wednesday September 21 – Railroad Board

10am: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8545956699840675075>

2pm: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2940813547206059523>
