



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance*

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Lieutenant Governor

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Commissioner

**Online Guide Transmittal 2015-71
December 21, 2015**

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From: *ADS* Anne O'Sullivan, Assistant Commissioner for Change Management
Re: No 2016 Social Security COLA for TAFDC, EAEDC and SNAP

Overview

Every year the Social Security Administration calculates a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for RSDI and SSI benefits. This COLA can affect TAFDC, EAEDC and SNAP benefits.

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will **not** increase in 2016 as there was no increase in the Consumer Price Index from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015.

This transmittal provides TAO staff with information on the 2016 Medicare Part B premiums. The basic Medicare Part B premium is remaining the same for clients that receive a social security benefit. There is an increase for self-pay clients with Medicare Part B who do not receive a social security benefit (primarily former state and municipal employees), and for state Medicare Part B buy-ins (including SSI recipients on DTA programs).

Medicare Part D 2016 deductibles will also increase and the 2016 Medex premiums will change.

Based on the recommendation of USDA, the heating/cooling SUA is increasing from \$620 to \$621. Cases on file with the heating/cooling SUA and Bay State CAP cases will be recalculated. Benefit changes, if any, will be effective for the household's cyclical issuance date in February.

**Revised
BEACON Online
Guide
Book/Pages**

The following books/pages are being added.

Topic: Scheduled Mailings/Projects
Book: COLAs
Page: Social Security Administration (SSA) Cost of Living Adjustment

Topic: Scheduled Mailings/Projects
Book: COLAs
Page: Medicare Part B

Topic: Scheduled Mailings/Projects
Book: COLAs
Page: Medicare Part D

Topic: Scheduled Mailings/Projects
Book: COLAs
Page: Medex Premiums

Topic: Scheduled Mailings/Projects
Book: COLAs
Page: SNAP Annual Cost of Living (COLA)

Questions

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline.
