



POLICY CHANGE ALERT #15-001F

TITLE: Cost of Living Adjustment

ISSUE DATE: 01/05/2015

EFFECTIVE DATE: EFFECTIVE 01/01/2015

Summary

Programs Impacted: MA, NA, and CA

This Policy Change Alert is being issued to inform staff that a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) occurred on 01/01/2015 for all participants receiving any of the following:

- Social Security Administration (SSA) income
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- A combination of SSA and SSI income

Effective 02/2015, the change will automatically be updated in AZTECS for participants when all of the following apply:

- The case is in the current system month.
- SSA or SSI income types and amounts are keyed correctly on UNIN.
- When applicable, the Medicare deduction type and amount are keyed correctly on EXNS.

SSA and SSI benefit amounts will increase 1.7 percent for all Social Security recipients. The maximum federal SSI monthly payments will increase as follows:

- An individual – from \$721 to \$733
- An individual with an eligible spouse – from \$1,082 to \$1,100

*******IMPORTANT*******
Staff must review the Interface Inquiry (ININ) screens in AZTECS for current SSA benefit and Medicare premium amounts.

Effective January 01, 2015, the premium and deductibles for Medicare are as follows:

For Medicare Part A, the premium is as follows:

- No premium when the participant has 40 quarters of work history
- \$224 per month when the participant has 30 to 39 quarters of work history
- \$407 per month when the participant has less than 30 quarters of work history

The deductible paid by the beneficiary is \$1260 per [benefit period\(g\)](#).

There is no change to the Medicare Part B Premium amount.



POLICY CHANGE ALERT #15-001F

The beneficiary's per diem cost for inpatient hospital care is as follows:

- First 60 calendar days, the \$1260 deductible
- 61 – 90 calendar days, \$315 per day
- 91 – 150 calendar days, \$630 per day
- Over 150 calendar days – the entire cost

For additional Medicare Part A premium and deductible information, refer to the Eligibility Policy Manual (EPM).

Revision Details

The FAA Policy Manual will be updated to include the information in this Policy Change Alert during one of the next bimonthly revisions. Until then, an alert will be placed in each revised section with a link to this document as a reminder of the policy change.

POLICY REFERENCE: FAA6.S12 – SSI MAXIMUM BENEFIT AMOUNT

Effective January 01, **2015**

The SSI maximum benefit amount is as follows:

- **\$733**
- **\$1100** (for a couple)

FAA Systems and the Division of Technology Services (DTS) plan to run a process (mass change) to update all active SSA and SSI cases that are authorized in the current system month. This is tentatively scheduled for 01/10/15.

Please contact the FAA Policy Support Team by phone at **(602) 542-5472** or by e-mail at **FAAPolicyMgmt@azdes.gov** with any questions or concerns regarding this broadcast.

Please consider the environment before printing this broadcast.

(14-2126)