

Social Security Administration

§ 418.1010

CMS also establishes rules for entitlement to a nonstandard premium, as well as premium penalties for late enrollment or reenrollment (42 CFR 408.20 through 408.27).

(c) We use information that we get from IRS to determine if beneficiaries who are enrolled in Medicare Part B are required to pay an income-related monthly adjustment amount. We also change income-related monthly adjustment amount determinations using information provided by a beneficiary under certain circumstances. In addition, we notify beneficiaries when the social security benefit amounts they receive will change based on our income-related monthly adjustment amount determination.

§ 418.1010 Definitions.

(a) *Terms relating to the Act and regulations.* For the purposes of this subpart:

(1) *Administrator* means the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in HHS.

(2) *CMS* means the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in HHS.

(3) *Commissioner* means the Commissioner of Social Security.

(4) *HHS* means the Department of Health and Human Services which oversees the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA) and the Medicare Appeals Council (MAC).

(5) *IRS* means the Internal Revenue Service in the Department of the Treasury.

(6) *MAC* means the Medicare Appeals Council in HHS.

(7) *OMHA* means the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals in HHS.

(8) *Section* means a section of the regulations in this part unless the context indicates otherwise.

(9) *The Act* means the Social Security Act, as amended.

(10) *Title* means a title of the Act.

(11) *We, our, or us* means the Social Security Administration (SSA).

(b) *Miscellaneous.* For the purposes of this subpart:

(1) *Amended tax return* means a Federal income tax return for which an amended tax return using the required IRS form(s) has been filed by an individual or couple and accepted by IRS.

(2) *Effective year* means the calendar year for which we make an income-related monthly adjustment amount determination.

(3) *Federal premium subsidy* is the portion of the full cost of providing Medicare Part B coverage that is paid by the Federal Government through transfers into the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund.

(4) *Income-related monthly adjustment amount* is an additional amount of premium that you will pay for Medicare Part B coverage if you have income above the threshold. The amount of your income-related monthly adjustment amount is based on your modified adjusted gross income.

(5) *Medicare Part B standard monthly premium* means the monthly Medicare Part B premium amount which is set annually by CMS, according to regulations in 42 CFR 408.20 through 408.27.

(6) *Modified adjusted gross income* is your adjusted gross income as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, plus the following forms of tax-exempt income:

(i) Tax-exempt interest income;

(ii) Income from United States savings bonds used to pay higher education tuition and fees;

(iii) Foreign earned income;

(iv) Income derived from sources within Guam, American Samoa, or the Northern Mariana Islands; and

(v) Income from sources within Puerto Rico.

(7) *Modified adjusted gross income ranges* are the groupings of modified adjusted gross income above the threshold. There are four ranges for most individuals, based on their tax filing status. There are two ranges for those with a tax filing status of married, filing separately, who also lived with their spouse for part of the year. The dollar amounts of the modified adjusted gross income ranges are specified in § 418.1115.

(8) *Non-standard premium* means a Medicare Part B premium that some beneficiaries pay for Medicare Part B, rather than the standard premium. The rules for applying a non-standard premium are in 42 CFR 408.20(e). The non-standard premium does not apply to beneficiaries who must pay an income-related monthly adjustment amount.

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(9) *Premium* is a payment that an enrolled beneficiary pays for Medicare Part B coverage. The rules that CMS uses to annually establish the premium amount are found in 42 CFR 408.20 through 408.27.

(10) *Representative* means, for the purposes of the initial determination and reconsidered determination, an individual as defined in § 404.1703 of this chapter, and for purposes of an ALJ hearing or review by the MAC, an individual as defined in 42 CFR 405.910.

(11) *Tax filing status* means the filing status shown on your individual income tax return. It may be single, married filing jointly, married filing separately, head of household, or qualifying widow(er) with dependent child.

(12) *Tax year* means the year for which your Federal income tax return has been filed or will be filed with the IRS.

(13) *Threshold* means a modified adjusted gross income amount above which the beneficiary will have to pay an income-related monthly adjustment amount described in paragraph (b)(4) of this section. The dollar amount of the threshold is specified in § 418.1105.

(14) *You or your* means the person or representative of the person who is subject to the income-related monthly adjustment amount.

DETERMINATION OF THE INCOME-RELATED MONTHLY ADJUSTMENT AMOUNT

§ 418.1101 What is the income-related monthly adjustment amount?

(a) The income-related monthly adjustment amount is an amount that you will pay in addition to the Medicare Part B standard monthly premium plus any applicable increase in that premium as described in 42 CFR 408.22 for your Medicare Part B coverage when your modified adjusted gross income is above the threshold described in § 418.1105.

(b) Your income-related monthly adjustment amount is based on your applicable modified adjusted gross income as described in § 418.1115 and your tax filing status.

(c) We will determine your income-related monthly adjustment amount

using the method described in §§ 418.1120 and 418.1130.

§ 418.1105 What is the threshold?

(a) The threshold is a level of modified adjusted gross income above which the beneficiary will have to pay the income-related monthly adjustment amount.

(b) In 2007, the modified adjusted gross income threshold is \$80,000 for individuals with a Federal income tax filing status of single, married filing separately, head of household, and qualifying widow(er) with dependent child. The threshold is \$160,000 for individuals with a Federal income tax filing status of married filing jointly.

(c) Starting at the end of calendar year 2007 and each year thereafter, the threshold amounts for the following year will be set by CMS by increasing the preceding year's threshold amount by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index rounded to the nearest \$1,000. CMS will publish the threshold amounts annually in September in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Published threshold amounts will be effective January 1 of the next calendar year, for the full calendar year.

§ 418.1110 What is the effective date of our initial determination about your income-related monthly adjustment amount?

(a) Generally, an income-related monthly adjustment amount will be effective for all months that you are enrolled in Medicare Part B during the year for which we determine you must pay an income-related monthly adjustment amount. We will follow the rules in 42 CFR part 408, subpart C, regarding premium collections to withhold your income-related monthly adjustment amount from a benefit payment or to determine if you will be billed directly.

(b) When we have used modified adjusted gross income information from IRS for the tax year 3 years prior to the effective year to determine your income-related monthly adjustment amount and modified adjusted gross income information for the tax year 2 years prior later becomes available