

Medicare Part B & IRMAA Deductions—a Federal Program Reimbursement of Deductions—a NYC Program

CUNY Instructional Staff retirees are covered by Medicare as their basic health care insurance coverage. Medicare Part A covers hospitalization, and you usually do not pay a premium for it. Medicare Part B covers outpatient health care services, and you pay a “standard” premium which is deducted from your monthly Social Security benefit payment. (For 2021, the premium is \$148.50 per month.) If your modified adjusted gross income on your income tax return two years previously—2019 for the 2021 calculation—is above a certain amount, you may pay an extra charge—IRMAA or Income Related Monthly Adjusted Amount—which is also deducted from your monthly Social Security payment. The Part B premium often increases slightly each year, but the IRMAA will vary depending on your income 2 years previously. *CUNY F/T retirees should not sign up for Medicare Part D because they receive prescription drug coverage through the PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund.*

Based on a NYC law for which the public unions lobbied, eligible retirees are reimbursed for the “standard” Part B premium each year and, separately, for the IRMAA they paid.

You only need to apply for reimbursement of your “standard” Medicare Part B premium one time. Here is the form to submit for TIAA members which should be submitted to the CUNY Benefits Office (see Welfare Fund website/Forms for mail and email address):

http://www.pscunywf.org/media/174716/medicare_part_b_application-tiaa.pdf

And the form for TRS members which should be submitted to the NYC Employee Benefits Program (see Welfare Fund website/Forms for email address):

http://www.pscunywf.org/media/235437/trs_med-b-application.pdf

The reimbursement of a year’s premiums is paid annually, during the spring of the following year, and is automatic. For retirees with TRS, the reimbursement is paid into the same bank account as your TRS benefit. For retirees with TIAA, the reimbursement is paid by check and mailed to the address in the application. (Inform the NYC Employee Benefits Program of any address change.)

You must apply for reimbursement of IRMAA every year it is deducted, because the amounts change. Here is a FAQ from the City: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/olr/downloads/pdf/health/faq-irmaa.pdf>

The reimbursement is usually paid in October of the year following the year for which you applied. If you have not applied for reimbursement previously, you can apply for reimbursement going back up to 3 years. The most recent form is at (You can also use the form to file for 2020.):

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/olr/downloads/pdf/health/irmaa-form-2018-2020.pdf>

The application for reimbursement of 2021 IRMAA premiums is not yet posted.

NOTE: Some retirees may pay a prescription drug IRMAA, but that amount is not reimbursed by NYC.