



HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

December 2021

Contact Us: 614.431.0781



"Our History Is Our Pride"

Medicare Connector Update

The enrollment phase of the Medicare Connector Project is nearly complete. There were 299 different types of health care plans selected from 34 carriers. Approximately 53% chose a Medicare Advantage Plan and 47% chose a Medicare Supplement Plan. Medicare-eligible retirees and their dependents that participated in this transition demonstrated extreme patience and understanding.

The next step will be setting up the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). The Reimbursement Guide has been mailed to all applicable members. Via Benefits will be working with all retirees and surviving spouses that have enrolled in a health care plan through them to get set up for reimbursement.

Although you may have enrolled in a plan with dental and vision coverage, you do not have to give up your dental and vision coverage through HPRS. However, if you do not want to keep your dental and vision coverage through HPRS, please contact us immediately.

Social Security: SCAM ALERT

The Social Security Administration will never threaten, scare, or pressure you to take an immediate action.

If you receive a call, text, or email that.....

- Threatens to suspend your Social Security number, even if they have part or all of your Social Security number
- Warns of arrest or legal action
- Demands or requests immediate payment
- Requires payment by gift card, prepaid debit card, internet currency, or by mailing cash
- Pressures you for personal information
- Requests secrecy
- Threatens to seize your bank account
- Promises to increase your Social Security benefit
- Tries to gain your trust by providing fake "documentation," false "evidence," or the name of a real government official

.....it is a SCAM!!!!!!

Do not give scammers money or personal information - Ignore Them!

- **Try to stay calm.** Do not provide anyone with money or personal information when you feel pressured, threatened, or scared.
- **Hang up or ignore it.** If you receive a suspicious call, text, or email, hang up or do not respond. Government employees will not threaten you, demand immediate payment, or try to gain your trust by sending you pictures or documents.
- **Report Social Security-related scams.** If you receive a suspicious call, text, or email that mentions Social Security, ignore it and report it to the SSA Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Do not be embarrassed if you shared personal information or suffered a financial loss.
- **Get up-to-date information.** Follow SSA OIG on Twitter @TheSSAOIG and Facebook @SSA Office of the Inspector General for the latest information on Social Security-related scams. Visit the Federal Trade Commission for information on other government scams.
- **Spread the word.** Share your knowledge of Social Security-related scams. Post on social media using the hashtag #SlamtheScam to share your experience and warn others. Visit oig.ssa.gov/scam for more information. Please also share with your friends and family.

Extra Help from Social Security for Prescription Drugs

For those that qualify, the Social Security Administration provides extra help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs. If you are married and live with your spouse, and do not have savings, investments, or real estate worth more than \$29,520, you may qualify. For this eligibility, DO NOT COUNT your home, vehicles, personal possessions, life insurance, burial plots, irrevocable burial contracts, or back payments from Social Security or SSI. If you have any questions, or think you may qualify, please contact the Social Security Administration.

Why did my monthly pension amount change?

- **Taxes** - You may have made adjustments to your taxes. Also, federal, state, and/or school district tax tables may have changed.
- **HPRS Health Care Premiums** - The 2022 premiums are available on our website. Medicare-eligible retirees that were on the Aetna Group Plan through HPRS will see an increase in their pension payment due to the health care premium no longer being deducted.
- **Health Care changes made by Retiree** - You may have added or deleted a dependent, or changed coverage. Also, you may have moved to another age group on the premium chart.

Please note that beginning in January 2022, tax tables will change, which may affect your pension check's net pay amount. Also, those members who are 65 and older with Medicare A & B will no longer have an Aetna medical deduction on their statements.

1099-R Information:

We are in the process of preparing 1099s for 2021 and plan to have them mailed by the middle of January 2022.

1099s will also be available on our secure website. Simply log in and print at your convenience!

Remember to update your address with HPRS if you have moved so your 1099 will be mailed to the most current address.

The post office will not forward 1099s.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 34th Annual Snowbird Reunion will be March 24-26, 2022, at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, in Lake Mary, Florida. The hotel is now accepting reservations at a special group rate of \$139.00. You are encouraged to take advantage of the early room reservation opportunity. More details can be found on our website.

Prescription Drug Cost Strategies

If you are transitioning from the health care benefits provided by HPRS to a plan that you selected through Via Benefits, health care expenses will need to be budgeted for differently. Although the annual estimated expense of the prescriptions in the plan you chose may be close to what you experienced previously, some will experience an increased expense during the first part of 2022. It is important to know what your deductible and out-of-pocket maximum limits are, and budget accordingly.

Additionally, members are encouraged to shop for the most inexpensive means to get their prescription drugs. Discounts may be available from the drug manufacturer. Some have had success at <https://www.rxpharmacycoupons.com/>. At a minimum, all are encouraged to use a resource such as GoodRx to compare the local prices for your prescription to make sure you are getting the lowest price. There are many examples provided to us where GoodRx has provided for a lower price than using their prescription drug plan.

Retiree Qualification

As a reminder, your qualification under the LEOSA rules is only good for one year from the date of qualification. This can be found in 18 USC 926C: Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers. For example, if you qualified on May 1, 2021, then you must qualify on or prior to May 1, 2022.

The upcoming scheduled retiree qualifications at the Academy are:

- Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 1300 hours
- Monday, April 4, 2022, at 1300 hours
- Friday, June 10, 2022, at 1000 hours
- Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 1300 hours
- Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 1300 hours

As a reminder, you must complete a Weapons Qualifications Record (HP-15C), that includes your personal weapon information, and submit it to Melissa Fellure at mjfellure@dps.ohio.gov no less than 14 days prior to the qualification date. Retirees must bring their Division-issued ID Card with them to the qualification, and the retiree must supply weapon(s) and ammunition. If you have any questions, please call the Academy at 614.466.4896.

Important Numbers For You To Have On Hand

HPRS	(614) 431-0781
VIA Benefits*	(833) 431-1358
Medicare	(800) 633-4227
Medical Mutual of Ohio	(877) 520-6729
Express Scripts**	(866) 472-6249
Aetna Vision	(877) 973-3238
Delta Dental of Ohio	(800) 524-0149
Social Security	(800) 772-1213
Ohio Deferred Compensation	(877) 644-6457
OSHIIP	(800) 686-1578

*VIA Benefits currently services Medicare-eligible beneficiary recipients only, for health care and prescription coverage. For those not yet Medicare-eligible, health care coverage is provided by HPRS through Medical Mutual of Ohio (MMO). *New ID cards will be sent to those enrolled in MMO for 2022.*

**Express Scripts coverage through HPRS for non-Medicare enrollment.

Our office will be closed:

- December 24th - Christmas Day (observance)
- December 31st - New Year's Day (observance)
- January 17th - Martin Luther King Day

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