

FAQs – Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Classic Premium Increase for Medicare Retirees in 2016

Beginning January 1, 2016, the UMP Classic premium for Medicare retirees will increase. Premiums for a Medicare retiree subscriber only will be \$267.89 per month, up from \$234.69 per month in 2015. Other Medicare retiree premiums will be available during open enrollment in November.

1. Why is the UMP Classic premium for Medicare retirees increasing so much for 2016?

Medical plan premiums are partially calculated based on the costs for medical services, equipment, and supplies. Projected cost increases on drugs often used by Medicare retirees are driving the higher premium.

2. Why is the premium increase for UMP Classic's Medicare retirees bigger than other PEBB retiree plans?

Group Health and Kaiser Permanente offer Medicare Advantage plans. This type of plan is provided by private companies that contract with Medicare to provide Medicare Part A and Part B coverage. Medicare Advantage plans cost less because they closely manage the use of high-cost medical specialists and services.

UMP is a preferred provider organization (PPO). Medicare directly reimburses medical claims, and members can see most providers without referrals or preauthorization requirements. Costs are more difficult to manage in plans like UMP because there are minimal cost controls in such an open network.

3. What are my options?

In addition to UMP Classic, the PEBB Program offers several medical plans to Medicare retirees (based on where the retiree lives):

- Group Health Medicare Advantage and Original Medicare
- Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage
- Medicare Supplement Plan F, administered by Premera Blue Cross

Note: Before changing plans, make sure you understand how it may affect your costs for coverage (including your prescription drug benefit). Resources for retirees are on PEBB's website at www.hca.wa.gov/pebb.

4. When will I get more information?

Look for more information with your open enrollment newsletter in mid-to-late October. Retirees will also receive a customized letter in late October showing which plans are available for 2016, and the costs for those plans.

Attend one of our benefits fairs to speak with a plan representative and other benefit vendors about your plan options for 2016. Benefits fairs occur throughout Washington in November. Look in your open enrollment newsletter for a complete benefits fair schedule.

If you are unable to attend a benefits fair, you may [contact the PEBB health plans](#) directly for questions about your benefits, choosing a doctor, identification cards, and prescription drug coverage.

You may contact PEBB Benefits Services at 1-800-200-1004 (TTY 711) or 360-725-0440 (in the Olympia area) with questions about which plans you are eligible for, enrollment, adding or removing a dependent, and updating your contact information.