



**Medicare Coverage
for Individuals
Exposed to Asbestos
in Lincoln County,
Montana**

www.socialsecurity.gov/libby

Medicare coverage is available for certain individuals who were exposed to asbestos in Lincoln County, Montana

Can I get help?

If you are diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease and you lived in Lincoln County, Montana for a total of at least six months during a period ending 10 years or more before the diagnosis, you are eligible for Medicare coverage. Asbestos-related diseases include:

- Asbestosis;
- Pleural thickening;
- Pleural plaques;
- Mesothelioma; and
- Malignancies of the lung, colon, rectum, larynx, stomach, esophagus, pharynx or ovary.

You do **not** need to be age 65 or receive disability benefits to get Medicare. In addition, there is no waiting period, and you do **not** need to have worked and paid into Social Security or Medicare.

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What benefits can I get?

If you meet the previously mentioned conditions:

- You can get free Medicare hospital insurance (Part A). Part A helps pay for inpatient care in a hospital or skilled nursing facility (following a hospital stay), some home health care, and hospice care;
- You can enroll in Medicare medical insurance (Part B) by paying a monthly premium. Part B helps pay for doctors' services and many other medical services and supplies that are not covered by hospital insurance. If you have limited resources and income, you may be able to get help from your State to pay for your share of the Medicare costs through the Medicare Savings Programs; and
- You are eligible to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, which helps pay for medications that medical providers prescribe for treatment. To get Medicare prescription drug coverage, you must join a plan run by an insurance company or other private company approved by Medicare. Medicare-approved prescription drug plans can vary in cost. Some people with limited resources and income are eligible for Extra Help to pay for the costs—monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments—related to Medicare prescription drug coverage.

I already have Medicare. Why should I apply?

Even if you have Medicare, you may benefit from applying for Medicare based on your asbestos-related disease. If you meet the conditions described in the section, “Can I get help?” and:

- You have Medicare Part A, but not Medicare Part B, you can enroll in Part B without having to pay a late enrollment penalty; or
- You have Medicare Part B and you are paying a late enrollment penalty; you will no longer need to pay the penalty.

When and how do I apply?

Call now. Coverage starts the month after the month you contact Social Security to file for benefits. Please call Social Security at **1-888-482-3128** (TTY **1-406-542-5229**) to apply.

Social Security representatives will help you apply for Medicare Part A, Medicare Part B, and Extra Help with costs related to your Medicare prescription drug coverage. When you file your application for Extra Help, you can start your application process for the Medicare Savings Programs. These State programs provide help with other Medicare costs. Social Security will send information

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to your State unless you tell us not to on the Extra Help application. Your State will contact you to help you apply for a Medicare Savings Program. You also can contact your State medical assistance (Medicaid) office to apply for the Medicare Savings Programs. In Montana, you can contact the Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services-Division of Child and Adult Health Resources at **1-800-362-8312**.

To enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, please visit **www.medicare.gov** or call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY, 1-877-486-2048)**.

What information or documents will I need to apply?

- A U.S. driver's license, State issued non-driver's identification card, **or** U.S. passport;
- Your full legal name, address, date of birth, and Social Security number;
- The time period(s) you were in the Lincoln County, Montana area;
- Information regarding your asbestos-related disease; and
- You will need to sign medical release forms available through Social Security. This will allow your doctor to confirm you have an asbestos-related disease and you meet the medical eligibility criteria.

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How can I get more information?

For more information about the Medicare coverage available to certain individuals who were exposed to asbestos in Lincoln County, Montana, please call Social Security at **1-888-482-3128** (TTY **1-406-542-5229**) or visit **www.socialsecurity.gov/libby**.

If you need information about Medicare Savings Programs, you can contact your State medical assistance (Medicaid) office. In Montana, you can contact the Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services-Division of Child and Adult Health Resources at **1-800-362-8312**.

To enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, find detailed information about what Medicare covers, or request a copy of the *Medicare & You* handbook, please visit **www.medicare.gov** or call **1-800-MEDICARE** (**1-800-633-4227**; TTY, **1-877-486-2048**). Your State Health Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (SHIP) also can help answer Medicare questions. You can find your local SHIP contact information in the back of your Medicare handbook, online at **www.medicare.gov** under "Help & Support," or you can request it when you call. If you live in Montana, you can call your local SHIP at **1-800-551-3191**.



Social Security Administration

SSA Publication No. 05-10532

Unit of Issue - EA

September 2012 (Recycle prior editions)