

Factor in Drug Cost Wildcard in Retirement Planning

When you're projecting your income and making the big decisions about when and where to retire, how much you need to live comfortably, and whether to sell the family home and downsize, one wildcard in the whole planning process is medical and drug costs.

Plan on seeing your drug coverage chew up a bigger portion of your income.

By 2030, 42 percent of people with traditional Medicare will spend 20 percent of their total income or more on health care costs, says a new Kaiser Permanente Foundation study (<http://kaiserf.am/2EOBtKS>), "Medicare Beneficiaries' Out-of-Pocket Health Care Spending as a Share of Income Now and Projections for the Future."



Direct Deposit Your Tax Refund

You already know that it's a smart move to save your tax refund. To make it even less likely that you'll spend your refund this year, you can use IRS Form 8888 (<http://bit.ly/1PiaMI3>) have the money deposited directly into a savings account or retirement vehicle like a Roth IRA.

And if you want only a portion to go to an IRA and you'd like to send some to savings account earmarked for home upgrades, the IRS lets you to split your refund among multiple accounts.

Learn more from the IRS at <http://bit.ly/2F8b5t0>.

New Medicare Cards

To reduce medical identity theft, Medicare is redesigning its cards and removing your Social Security number.

The revamped cards will feature a new number that's unique to you.

New cards will be sent out in waves over a one-year period starting in April. Everyone should get a new card by April, 2019.

Here's the mailing schedule and when to look out for your card.

Wave	States included	Card mailing
1	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia	April–June 2018
2	Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon	April–June 2018
3	Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin	After June 2018
4	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont	After June 2018
5	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	After June 2018
6	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	After June 2018
7	Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virgin Islands	After June 2018

Beware of scams associated with the new card rollout. Know that no one from the government will contact people and ask for confidential information like a Social Security number for you to get a new card.

Be certain that your mailing address is current. Report address changes to Social Security:

- Online: <http://bit.ly/17VXjHS>
- Phone: 800-772-1213.
- TTY: 800-325-0778

Learn more:

- <http://bit.ly/2uFpsS5>
- <http://bit.ly/2of7Bgh>