

http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-here-s-more-on-medicare-costs/article_4cf8eb4d-e434-5bba-b7d0-cdb59f735d13.html

Here's more on Medicare costs

Letter to the *Corvallis Gazette-Times*

by Thomas Kraemer, Corvallis

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The [medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) HTML web page now has a detailed explanation of how Medicare health insurance premiums for 2017 were calculated for each individual Social Security beneficiary; however, the printed brochure and online PDF file still contain old information.

The Medicare Part A medical insurance can cost up to \$413 per month, but nothing if you worked and paid the taxes for it.

The optional Medicare Part B medical insurance typically costs \$134 per month, if you enrolled for the first time in 2017, but much less for most people who were previously covered because their increase was limited by the small cost of living increase this year.

However, Part B can cost much as \$428.60 per month, based on your 2015 federal tax return income, and infinitely more if you owe a penalty for signing up late.

The optional Medicare Part D drug plan costs are determined by the private providers, but many plans cost less than \$40 per month.

It is still unclear who is paying the subsidy for the actual health care costs for each Medicare beneficiary of approximately \$11,000 per year.