



CrS Report for Congress: The Impact of Medicare Premiums on Social Security Beneficiaries: October 15, 2009 - RL33364

By Alison M Shelton

Bibliogov, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Most Social Security beneficiaries pay Medicare premiums. Unless they qualify for low-income assistance, beneficiaries who participate in Medicare Part B (Supplementary Medical Insurance) or Part D (prescription drugs) must pay monthly premiums. Part B participants have premiums automatically deducted from their Social Security benefit checks. Part D participants may choose to have their premiums deducted from their Social Security checks. Medicare premiums are absorbing a growing share of Social Security benefits. To see the effect of growing premiums, consider a Social Security beneficiary who earned the average wage throughout his or her career (called a medium earner). If this retiree chose to participate in Part B as the vast majority of Social Security beneficiaries do the standard Part B premium would have absorbed about 5 of the retiree s benefits in 2000 and about 8 in 2009. The proportion of benefits needed to pay the Part B premium rose by about two-thirds over the past decade. The introduction of Medicare Part D adds to the premium expenses of beneficiaries who choose to participate; it also substantially reduces their...



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