

# SHIBA News Flashes

*Newsletter published by Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) Regional Training Consultants, for time-sensitive health insurance news. Please pass this information on to others!*

**SilverScript Medicare prescription drug plan announces a delay in collecting Part D Late Enrollment Penalty costs:** SilverScript is currently informing some of its enrollees about an issue that delays the Late Enrollment Penalty (LEP) assessment, which caused approximately 16,000 clients nationwide to have a one-time retroactive lump sum LEP amount due. Most of these enrollees will also have an increase in their monthly premium to reflect the LEP. In a very small number of cases, the client may be refunded premiums that were withheld from Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits. SilverScript will then bill them for all of the premiums they owe, including any LEP. The plan is making at least three efforts to contact clients by mail, and in some cases, by phone. If SHIBA volunteers receive calls asking questions about letters or bills from SilverScript, please encourage clients to call:

**1-855-344-0931**

**TTY users/ 1-866-236-1069**

Clients can appeal an LEP. They will need to provide proof they had “creditable” prescription drug coverage. For more information, see: <http://www.medicare.gov/claims-and-appeals/file-an-appeal/appealing-late-enrollment-penalty.html>. The only other way someone can avoid the LEP is to qualify for Extra Help. So, remember to screen any clients for this program and help them apply if needed.

**Washington Apple Health enrollment reminder:** If clients apply for Washington Apple Health (Medicaid), there’s no open enrollment period. Qualified clients can enroll throughout the year through the [Washington Healthplanfinder \(www.wahealthplanfinder.org\)](http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org) or by calling 1-855-923-4633.

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