

## MEDICARE FACT SHEET

### And your NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust Coverage

Congratulations...you are thinking about or have a date set for retirement!

An important consideration when planning for retirement is the coordination of your NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust (“NY44 Trust”) medical coverage with Medicare. **As a participant in the NY44 Trust, and pursuant to eligibility requirements defined in the Trust’s Summary Plan Description, enrollees who are eligible for/entitled to Medicare for whom Medicare is primary payer are required to obtain Part A and Part B to maintain eligibility with the NY44 Trust. Failure to enroll in Medicare within six (6) months of an enrollee’s date of first eligibility, will result in termination of coverage effective six (6) months from the date of first eligibility.** When Medicare is primary payer the NY44 Trust will pay eligible expenses up to Medicare’s reimbursement level.

**If you are turning age 65 but not yet planning to retire**, you are eligible for Medicare during your Initial Enrollment Period and are encouraged to enroll in Medicare Part A to receive all the benefits for which you are entitled.

**If you are under age 65 and retiring**, the NY44 Trust will remain **primary** payer for retirees and covered spouses under age 65 provided you and/or your covered spouse are not Medicare-eligible due to a disability (subject to the special rule for end stage renal disease).

**\*Your spouse – If you have a spouse who is 65 or older**, the NY44 Trust requires Part A and Part B, regardless if your spouse is enrolled in their own employer’s health plan.

**If you are 65 or older and are retiring**, and do not already have Part A, upon retirement you will need to enroll in Part A and Part B as Medicare becomes primary payer for Part A and Part B covered services. Beginning on your retirement date, the NY44 Trust becomes the **secondary** payer. So long as you are eligible for Part A and Part B, you will need to maintain Medicare coverage to continue participating in the NY44 Trust. If after retirement, you are interested in coverage other than through the NY44 Trust, notify your school’s benefit administrator.

**\*Your spouse – See spouse information above.**

**There are special circumstances for disabled spouses/dependents who are Medicare-eligible due to disability. Regardless of the retiree’s age at retirement**, Medicare is primary payer for your Medicare-eligible disabled spouse/dependent and your spouse/dependent needs to obtain Part A and Part B, regardless of their age. At your retirement, the NY44 Trust becomes secondary payer for your disabled spouse/ dependent.

**Medicare has late enrollment penalties**, so it is important to be aware of the enrollment periods which are your opportunity to obtain coverage. Generally, Medicare offers three enrollment periods:

- 1.) Initial Enrollment Period (IEP) **when you turn 65**
- 2.) Special Enrollment Period (SEP) **when you retire**
- 3.) General Enrollment Period which is held annually from January 1 through March 31

Contact your local Social Security office or visit Medicare’s website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) for information regarding which enrollment period applies to you. Contacting Medicare will also allow you to become knowledgeable about Medicare’s benefits which in some cases exceed your benefit coverage with the NY44 Trust.

#### **Working after retirement?**

If you are 65 or older and decide to return to work following retirement and choose to enroll in your employer’s medical plan or if your spouse is 65 or older, currently working and enrolled in a medical plan where you are a dependent on his/her plan, your coordination of benefits with the NY44 Trust and Medicare may be impacted. If you have other insurance coverage, please provide your benefit administrator with copy(ies) of your identification cards and notify the benefit administrator of any changes in your enrollment.

**Failure to enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B within six (6) months of an enrollee’s first date of eligibility will result in the loss of medical coverage through the NY44 Trust effective six (6) months from the date of first eligibility, and you will not be eligible for COBRA continuation.**