

FROM OUR CEO GENE LOEWY

MEDICARE REBATE PROCESS FOR IRMAA (2019)

The City of New York Medicare rebate program includes a second process which is often overlooked by the retirees. Several years ago, Congress enacted legislation pertaining to Part "B", Higher levels of retiree's annual income are required to pay higher monthly rates for the Part "B" coverage. Medicare annually reviews the tax returns and notifies the affected retirees by *mail* during the month of November or December of the increase which will commence the **first of January**. This is referred to as the IRMAA letter. The City does not have access to your tax returns and therefore annually issues the **basic refund** although they are committed to do a dollar for dollar Part "B" rebate. This review by Medicare is done each and every year and varies based on the income changes. The good part is that the City has a process for the retirees to prove to them that they paid more than they were reimbursed for. The instructions are posted on the Office of Labor Relations website "Health Benefits". I will try to simplify instructions here to lead you through the steps you should take to receive the second payment so that you are fully reimbursed:

1. Upon receiving the basic reimbursement {usually now in April} **2020** for Part B charges for **2019** you must go to your tax file for **2019** and extract the 1099 you received from Social Security. It will contain the exact amount they subtracted for the year. You compare the reimbursement with the amount that you actually paid for Part "B". If they are the same, case closed. If you paid more than the reimbursement, you are owed the difference.
2. To prove to the City what you are owed go to their website nyc.gov/olr, click on the retiree box, and download the IRMAA Rebate form and follow the instructions. If you did not save the IRMAA letter requested on the form, you can call Social Security 1-800-772-1213 and request a copy.
3. Send all the documents to Retired Employees Benefit Section – Attention IRMAA Unit - 12 Cortlandt St., 12th floor, New York, NY 10007. You should receive the second payment in October of **2020**.