



**Medicare Coverage
for Individuals
Exposed to Asbestos
in Lincoln County,
Montana**

www.socialsecurity.gov/libby

Medicare coverage is available for certain individuals who were exposed to asbestos in Lincoln County, Montana

Who is eligible and what does it mean for me?

Anyone with a diagnosed asbestos-related disease who was in Lincoln County, Montana for a total of at least six months during a period ending 10 years or more before the diagnosis will be eligible. Asbestos-related diseases include:

- Asbestosis;
- Pleural thickening;
- Pleural plaques;
- Mesothelioma; and
- Malignancies of the lung, colon, rectum, larynx, stomach, esophagus, pharynx or ovary.

To qualify for Medicare, you do **not** need to be age 65 or receive disability benefits. In addition, there is no waiting period, and you do **not** need to have worked and paid into Social Security or Medicare.

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What benefits will I be entitled to?

- You will receive free Medicare hospital insurance (Part A). Part A helps pay for inpatient care in a hospital or skilled nursing facility (following a hospital stay), some home health care and hospice care;
- You will be eligible for Medicare medical insurance (Part B) for a monthly premium. (However, depending on your family's income, you may be eligible for additional assistance through the Medicare Savings Programs with your state.) Part B helps pay for doctors' services and many other medical services and supplies that are not covered by hospital insurance; and
- You will be eligible for Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D). Part D helps pay for medications doctors prescribe for treatment. Some people with limited resources and income are eligible for Extra Help to pay for the costs—monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments—related to a Medicare prescription drug plan.

When and how do I apply?

Call now. Coverage starts with the month after the month you contact Social Security to file for benefits. Please call Social Security at **1-888-482-3128** (TTY **1-406-542-5229**) to make an appointment or apply over the telephone.

What information or documents will I need to apply?

- A U.S. driver's license, state issued non-driver's identification card **or** U.S. passport;
- Your full legal name, address, birth date, and Social Security number;
- The time period(s) you were in the Lincoln County, Montana area;
- Information regarding your asbestos-related disease; and
- You will need to sign medical release forms. This will allow your doctor to confirm you have an asbestos-related disease and meet the medical eligibility criteria.

(Over)

How can I get more information?

For more information about the Medicare coverage available to certain individuals who were exposed to asbestos in Lincoln County, Montana, please call Social Security at **1-888-482-3128** (TTY **1-406-542-5229**) or visit **www.socialsecurity.gov/libby**. Social Security representatives are available to help you apply for Medicare Part A, Medicare Part B, and the Extra Help with costs related to a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. Filing your application for Extra Help also can start your application for the Medicare Savings Programs, which provide assistance with other Medicare costs.

To enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan; to find detailed information about what Medicare covers; or to request a copy of the *Medicare & You* handbook (Publication No. CMS-10050), please visit **www.medicare.gov** or call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY, 1-877-486-2048)**. When you call, you also can request information about how to contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). In addition, you can find your local SHIP contact information on the back of your Medicare handbook or obtain the information online at **www.medicare.gov/contacts/staticpages/ships.aspx**.

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