

## CMS Releases new Fact Sheet outlining Programs that can help you pay your Medical Expenses

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has released a new [publication](#) that describes some of the federal and state programs available for people with limited income and resources including: Medicaid, the Medicare Savings Programs, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Benefits and Extra Help with Prescription Drugs

## 13 California hospitals fined for medical errors

State officials have fined 13 California hospitals for medical errors that in some cases killed or seriously injured patients, according to a [report made public Wednesday](#). John F Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Indio was received 4 of the 16 penalties issued. For more information read the [Los Angeles Times article](#).

## Tax Counseling for the Elderly

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program provides free tax help to people aged 60 and older. Trained volunteers from non-profit organizations provide free tax counseling and basic income tax return preparation for senior citizens.

As part of the IRS-sponsored TCE Program, **AARP** offers the Tax-Aide counseling program at more than 7,000 sites nationwide during the filing season. Trained and certified AARP Tax-Aide volunteer counselors help people of low-to-middle income with special attention to those age 60 and older. For more information on TCE, call 1-800-829-1040. To locate the nearest AARP Tax-Aide site, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit [AARP's site locator](#).

## Addressing Misinformation Regarding Chiropractic Services and Medicare

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released a new [fact sheet](#) to correct seven common misinformation claims in the chiropractic community relating to Medicare and its regulations as they relate to chiropractic services. This [fact sheet](#) addresses such misconceptions as limits on services, opting out of Medicare, using Advance Beneficiary Notices, and more.

## You're the Counselor:

Christine has an Employer Group Health Plan (EGHP) and is considering changing to an MA+PD or a Medigap with a PDP. Her present plan has creditable Rx coverage. What can she do???

*(Send your ideas to [ask-hicap@inlandagency.org](mailto:ask-hicap@inlandagency.org) and we will share your counseling tips in the next issue)*

## Counseling Tips for Angel (1/29/2010):

Becky explains. when a provider participates/accepts assignment they agree to accept Medicare's approved amount for a service as payment in full (Medicare pays 80\$ and the beneficiary pays 20%). If a provider does not *participate* with Medicare and s/he does not take assignment, than s/he can ask for payment before providing the service, and their charges are limited to 115% of the Medicare approved amount.