



The Network  
News  
2017  
February Issue #200

OREGON HIV/AIDS CASE MANAGEMENT

**Our efforts make a difference!**

This month the [CDC estimated](#) that the annual number of new infections fell 18% between 2008 and 2014! The estimate of HIV incidence fell from 46,700 to 37,600 during those 6 years.

On February 28th, the National Alliance of State and Territorial Directors (NATSAD) [released a statement](#) which affirms that those who virally suppressed living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy (ART) **DO NOT** sexually transmit the virus.

These 2 updates show the impact of the work of so many providers and community members over many years that impact clinical interventions, adherence efforts, access to care issues, the importance of universal testing and connecting those living with HIV to care and insurance.

We have gotten to this point, we can't stop now! Here are some current **opportunities to provide feedback and take action:**

**Feedback needed for Proposed HHS Rule– Due By 3/7/17**

Provide feedback to on the [proposed rule](#) intended to stabilize the ACA's marketplace. This feedback is due by 5 p.m. March 7th ( EST).

[Healthcare in Motion provides](#) a lot of information about this proposed rule change. Here are some details of the potential impact [courtesy of CMS:](#)

**Special Enrollment Period Pre-Enrollment Verification:** The rule proposes to expand pre-enrollment verification of eligibility to individuals who newly enroll through special enrollment periods in Marketplaces using the HealthCare.gov platform. This proposed change would help make sure that special enrollment periods are available to all who are eligible for them, but will require individuals to submit supporting documentation, a common practice in the employer health insurance market. This will help place downward pressure on premiums, curb abuses, and encourage year-round enrollment.

**Guaranteed Availability:** The rule proposes to address potential abuses by allowing an issuer to collect premiums for prior unpaid coverage, before enrolling a patient in the next year's with the same issuer. This will incentivize patients to avoid coverage lapses.

**Determining the Level of Coverage:** The rule proposes to make adjustments to the de minimis range used for determining the level of coverage by providing greater flexibility to issuers to provide patients with more coverage options.

**Next Meeting**  
**March 14**  
**Rebecca Miller**  
**Service for Older and Disabled Adults**  
**Ageing and Disability and Veteran's**

**Network Adequacy:** The proposed rule takes an important step in reaffirming the traditional role of states to serve their populations. In the review of qualified health plans, CMS proposes to defer to the states' reviews in states with the authority and means to assess issuer network adequacy. States are best positioned to ensure their residents have access to high quality care networks.

**Qualified Health Plan (QHP) Certification Calendar:** In the rule, CMS announces its intention to release a revised proposed timeline for the QHP certification and rate review process for plan year 2018. The revised timeline would provide issuers with additional time to implement proposed changes that are finalized prior to the 2018 coverage year. These changes will give issuers flexibility to incorporate benefit changes and maximize the number of coverage options available to patients.

**Open Enrollment Period:** The rule also proposes to shorten the upcoming annual open enrollment period for the individual market. For the 2018 coverage year, we propose an open enrollment period of November 1, 2017, to December 15, 2017. This proposed change will align the Marketplaces with the Employer-Sponsored Insurance Market and Medicare, and help lower prices for Americans by reducing adverse selection.

You can provide feedback electronically [here](#) or letter templates have been made available. Click [here](#) and scroll down to towards the end of that page and you'll find a link that allows you to download a template.

Share your story!! [Healthcare for our Lives](#) is a project of AIDS Foundation of Chicago to give voice and face to the stories of those living with HIV and other chronic diseases. It is time to speak out to protect health care and other critical rights that are at risk!

**[U.S Prevention Services Task Force is asking for feedback on 3 research areas:](#)**

1. PrEp for the prevention of HIV
2. HIV infection screening in asymptomatic adolescents and adults
3. HIV infection in pregnant women

Feedback can be provided until March 22 through [this link](#)

## Immigration resources

We realize information is changing very quickly. We provide this information as tools that you can share with folks who may benefit from this information. *It is not intended to be legal advice.*

[Mobile Justice OR](#), is a free ACLU app that automatically uploads any video you record to ACLU even if your phone is confiscated. ACLU specifically wants documentation if local law enforcement is cooperating with ICE.

### **Immigration Rights Coalition (PIRC) Rapid Response Team hotline 1-888-622-1510**

- o Number to use if ICE comes to your home or work
- o Will provide advice over the phone
- o Communicate in Spanish/English
- o Others may come to location to offer support
- o Possible follow up support if detained

For more information about this group [https://www.facebook.com/pdximmigrantrights/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pdximmigrantrights/?ref=page_internal)

These suggestions came from a community meeting on immigration rights **for folks** who have concerns about being questioned/detained/deported:

- o do not carry ID from another country (if you must, carry it in your shoe)
- o carry another picture ID such as a Costco card, an Honored Citizen card or a bank card
- o carry proof that you have been in the country more than two years
- o give name and invoke right to stay silent, don't state where you are from or give immigration status don't lie or give false documents, ask to speak to a lawyer (best to have a lawyer's number)

For those families with young children who want to plan for the legal guardianship of their children in the event they are detained or deported [download forms](#) from the Oregon Law Center in English and Spanish

These websites offers a lot of resources and links to other informative websites

<http://imirj.org/immigrant-community-resources>

<http://oregonimmigrationresource.org/>

<http://oregonimmigrationresource.org/es/inicio/> Website in Spanish

**\*\* This is not intended to be an exhaustive list or legal advice. This is a compilation of resources that are available online and in the community at this time. 2/28/17**

## **Easily Get Replacement Social Security Tax Forms Online** **By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs**



Tax time is fast approaching. Preparing your documents can seem overwhelming. Some forms and paperwork might be difficult to track down. Social Security has made it easy to track down your annual Benefit Statement.

An SSA-1099, or your annual Benefit Statement, is a tax form Social Security mails each year in January to people who receive Social Security benefits. It shows the total amount of benefits received from Social Security in the previous year so people know how much Social Security income to report to the IRS on their tax return. You should receive your SSA-1099 by January 31, 2017.

For noncitizens who live outside of the United States and received or repaid Social Security benefits last year, we'll send form SSA-1042S instead. The forms SSA-1099 and SSA-1042S are not available for people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

If you currently live in the United States and need a replacement form SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S, we have a way for you to get an instant replacement quickly and easily. Go online and request an instant replacement form with a my Social Security account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). The online replacement form is available beginning February 1, 2017. Every working person in the U.S. should create a my Social Security account. The secure and personalized features of my Social Security are invaluable in securing a comfortable retirement — for today and tomorrow.

## **Helping Veterans and Active Duty Military Members** **By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs**



For veterans and active duty members of the military who return home with injuries, Social Security is a resource they can turn to. If you know any wounded veterans, please let them know about Social Security's Wounded Warriors website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors). Benefits available through Social Security are different than those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application. The expedited process is used for military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs.

Even active duty military who continue to receive pay while in a hospital or on medical leave should consider applying for disability benefits if they're unable to work due to a disabling condition. Active duty status and receipt of military pay doesn't necessarily prevent payment of Social Security disability benefits. Although a person can't receive Social Security disability benefits while engaging in substantial work for pay or profit, receipt of military payments should never stop someone from applying for disability benefits from Social Security.

Social Security is proud to support the veterans and active duty members of the military. Let these heroes know they can count on us when they need to take advantage of their earned benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors).

## Receiving HOUSING benefits? A trip to Social Security may not be necessary

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs



Social Security is constantly evolving to make your life easier. If you are currently receiving benefits from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and are reapplying for benefits, or are assisting someone with their application, a trip to the Social Security office is probably not necessary even if verification of Social Security benefits is needed.

Because of a data exchange established between Social Security and HUD, most people do not need to contact Social Security for a benefit verification letter. HUD administrators processing a Recertification Application for Housing Assistance can use their Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System to verify Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Public housing agencies, private owners, and management agents administering HUD rental assistance programs may get registration information about EIV by logging onto the following websites: [go.usa.gov/x97mH](http://go.usa.gov/x97mH) or [go.usa.gov/x97m6](http://go.usa.gov/x97m6). If you are a new applicant for housing assistance, you can provide your HUD administrator with your Social Security award letter, Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) notice, SSA-1099, or other SSA benefit document you should have received at the beginning of the calendar year or when you began receiving benefits, whichever is later.

We created these data exchange agreements to help you get the support you need at the first point of contact, even if that's not with Social Security. If you need to provide proof of Social Security or SSI benefits to programs such as energy assistance or other services, we have another way to save you a trip to Social Security: You can get an instant benefit verification letter with a personal my Social Security account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

## SOCIAL SECURITY IS ALWAYS EVOLVING

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs



Social Security is always evolving to meet the needs of the American public. We're optimistic about the future and the limitless possibilities for progress. Much of the progress we've made together, as a nation, is through the shared responsibility of paying Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax. This federal payroll tax funds Social Security—programs that provide benefits for retirees, the disabled, and children of deceased workers. You help us keep millions of hard working Americans out of poverty.

Without your contribution, wounded warriors wouldn't receive the benefits they deserve. Children who have lost parents would have no social safety net. Millions of elderly people would be destitute. In the same way that we take great pride in helping people who need it, you should take pride in making this country stronger. You can see the many ways our retirement benefits help your loved ones and neighbors at [www.socialsecurity.gov/retire](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire).

The strength of our nation relies on cooperation and the empathy to understand each other's unique struggles.

Similarly, Social Security has an obligation to provide benefits quickly to applicants whose medical conditions are so serious that their conditions obviously meet disability standards.

Compassionate Allowances offer a way of quickly identifying diseases and other medical conditions that invariably qualify under the Listing of Impairments based on minimal objective medical information. This also lets Social Security target the most obviously disabled individuals for allowances based on objective medical information that we can obtain quickly.

You can view the list of Compassionate Allowances at [www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances).

Our diversity is an asset that can bring us together, making us stronger as a nation. Visit [www.socialSecurity.gov](http://www.socialSecurity.gov) to empower your future, for today and tomorrow.



# DINING OUT FOR LIFE



## DINE OUT FIGHT AIDS THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

Dine out at participating restaurants and a portion of your bill will be donated to Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's HIV Day Center and Partnership Project to support people living with HIV/AIDS in the Portland metro area.

[www.DiningOutForLife.com/Portland](http://www.DiningOutForLife.com/Portland)



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This issue, and issues from January 2011 on, can be found electronically [here](#)