I Just Got My January Deposit and . . .

This time of year we get many calls from retirees who discover that their monthly deposit has changed. Because the benefits include several moving parts, multiple changes can cause your deposit to change in both directions.

Retirees who have direct deposit receive one statement per year, and that is the January statement, released January 25 this year. Before picking up the phone to find out why there is a change, please compare the 1/25/2013 statement with the previous statement from last year to determine why your deposit has changed. Here are a number of reasons your deposit may change:

1. **COLA:** The cost of living adjustment for January, as previously announced, is 2.5% by policy for hospital pensions and 1.7% for church benefits as voted by the North American Division. A retiree with mixed service will have a combination of the two. It will seldom be precisely 2.5% or 1.7% because of rounding.

2. **Medicare B:** For SHARP participants who are receiving partial reimbursement for Medicare B premium, that premium has changed for 2013. Your reimbursement rate depends on your years of church (not hospital) service credit. So for instance if you have 35 or more years of church service credit, your Medicare B reimbursement is 90% of $104.90 or $94.41. If you have a Joint & Survivor spouse also on Medicare B, your reimbursement may be double this figure. (A retiree with 15–19 years of church service credit is reimbursed at 50%, with others in between.)

3. **SHARP:** For those participating in SHARP, our supplemental healthcare assistance plan, the Medicare Extension (MCx) has been reduced by $10 for 2013. As a result, Retirees who have opted for the MCx option may see a decrease in their SHARP deductions, resulting in a $10 increase in the bank deposit. Since most hospital retirees are ineligible to participate in SHARP, this change will not impact those retirees.

4. **Tax Withholding:** Federal tax tables provided to us by the IRS have increased withholding thresholds for 2013 over 2012. This may mean a modest change in tax withholding for retirees, depending on income and the form W-4P filed by the retiree. If you wish to change your W-4P, feel free to download a copy of the W-4P either from the IRS website or our website, fill it out and send it to us.

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SHARP Corner February 2013

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. Here in Silver Spring we are back in full work mode. I am providing for you a few updates and reminders of helpful online information. Last year I provided information to you on how to create an online account with the third party payer (WebTPA) for Adventist Risk Management, Inc. I am including this information for you again in case you missed it.

Online Claim Information

Only a current participant in one of the Standard SHARP Options can access healthcare claim status and Explanation of Benefit (EOB) information online at the secure website of www.webtpa.com.

To create your account and access your claim information click on the “Members Login” link on the left side of the screen. The User ID & Password prompt will be displayed. Click on the “First time to logon” link under “Do you need Logon Help” to begin the registration process. Enter the following in the Member Services Account Creation/Recover screen.

First name, Last name, Date of Birth, Member/Subscriber ID (the ID number printed on your SHARP ID card), and Group/Account number (these numbers are on the front of your SHARP ID card). Click Submit.

For security and HIPAA reasons, a password letter will be mailed to your home mailing address within 3 to 5 business days. Once you have your password return to the website www.webtpa.com and enter your user ID and password. You may change your password any time after the initial set up by following the instructions found on the website.

Once your account is set up you may view if a doctor’s claim has been paid or see how much you have used of your limits. You may also use your online account to communicate with the claims office directly.

Please keep in mind that the SHARP office in Silver Spring, MD does not process claims. All claim queries need to be directed to the ARM office in Texas. You will find the address and the Customer Service phone number for eligibility, benefits and claims on the back of your SHARP ID card.

New Additions on the Adventist Retirement Website www.adventistretirement.org

In an effort to supply you with the forms you may need relating to your healthcare I have added two new items to the website. On the website under the Retiree tab, then Retiree Downloads you will now find a HIPAA Release of Information form. If you wish to have a family member or other designee speak to us regarding your healthcare questions complete this form and fax to the attention of SHARP at (301) 680-6190.

Also on the website you will find a form for Medco/Express Scripts mail order. You can print and use this form when you have a new prescription you want to send in to the mail order program.

Blessings,
Lisa Turpen RN
Assistant Administrator
(Con’d from page 1)

To summarize, a change in your benefits is best understood by looking at four possibly moving parts:

- Cost of Living Adjustment – modest increase in deposit for 2013
- Medicare B Reimbursement (only for SHARP eligible Participants) – modest increase in deposit
- SHARP Withholding (only for SHARP Participants) – possible increase in deposit but only if signed up for MCx.
- Federal Tax Withholding – possible decrease in deposit.

Please compare 2012 with 2013, looking at these four items on your statement.
Changing Banks:

At some point or another Retirees want to redirect their funds to another bank. Payroll requires specific documentation and 4 weeks to effect this change.

If you already have checks for the new account simply forward a voided check to the office by mail or fax. Understand that Payroll will not accept a starter check so it has to be one that already has your name and address preprinted on the check.

If you only have starter checks there are still 2 options available to you.

- Find on our website the Direct Deposit form; a portion has to be filled out by you and a portion has to be completed by the bank.
- Finally you may also contact your bank and have them forward a document saying that you now have a new account. This has to be on letterhead and would contain the same information as is represented on a check.