



Part B Delays throughout the Nation - Apply three Months ahead to avoid Effective Date Delays

by David Garcia, Co-Chair of CAHIP'S Medicare Committee

Our office receives calls from agents daily asking what can they do to speed up the process in their applicants receiving Part A and B benefits and get access to their Medicare # so they can have the effective date they requested for their Medicare Supplement plan.

A couple of interesting points worth noting:

California has more residence enrolled in Medicare compared to all other states by almost 2 million enrolled. California also has more than 10% of US population aging in to Medicare daily - more than 1,000 a day in California and 10,000 a day in the nation.

Because of this, California SSA offices are impacted more than other states and some Counties in CA are suffering greater staffing shortages than others.

Your best solution is to have those turning 65 and activating Parts A and B of Medicare apply three months prior to the month they are turning 65. This issue is not going away anytime soon and will continue to cause delays.

Start reaching out now to those in your database that are turning 65 in May and June and have them apply NOW if their 65th birthday is in April and early next month if they turn 65 in May.

Please note: This is not a fool proof solution but the best you can offer to assist in having your applicants receive their Medicare benefits sooner than later.