

## **Revised Explanation of Benefits Leads to Confusion**

Many CSA retirees recently received the first explanation of benefits for their Medicare Part-D prescription drug benefit provided by GHI and Express Scripts, and became confused by new language in the letter.

As participants are clearly aware, the plan, known as the GHI Enhanced Medicare Part-D Drug Plan, requires them to pay 25% of the first \$ 2,250 of medication costs, then pay 60% until their out-of-pocket limit (TrOOP) of \$ 3,850 is reached. Once that limit is reached, they then pay 5% of the cost of medications for the rest of the calendar year.

The new and improved form indicates that participants are enrolled in the GHI PDP plan, and may be required to pay up to 100% of the costs after \$ 2,250. Both of these items were not in last year's letter.

Your Welfare Fund staff has verified with GHI that there are no changes, other than the increased out-of-pocket amount of \$ 3,850 for 2007. The letter reflects a new version of the letter simply reflects a modified sample document prepared by Medicare staff. All providers of Medicare drug plans must provide this type of notice to participants, and using a sample provided by Medicare ensures that the correct information is presented to participants, even though a simpler, easier to understand letter might result in less apprehension and confusion.