

# HICAP

FRESNO/MADERA (PSA-14)

## Virtual Updates!

### *Greetings!*

We have some insightful updates and resources for Medicare Beneficiaries and their families. We cannot stress enough that our program continues to stay open for phone and virtual appointments to better serve our community during these unprecedented times. To call for our free one-on-one Medicare counseling, please contact our office at (559) 224-9117. We are also offering presentations upon request. For more details and information, please contact our Program Manager, Jennifer Webb at (559) 224-9117 ext. 301.

### **Staff Updates**

This month HICAP joined the rest of the Valley Caregiver Resource Center staff for a wonderful Thanksgiving feast. This marked the first “all staff” meal together in over two years and we had much to “give thanks” for. We gave thanks for our *health, families, friends, coworkers*, and of course **you!!** We are thankful for your support of our program and that we are able to provide valuable resources and services to so many.

HICAP invites you to join us in congratulating our new Community Outreach Coordinator, Dinora Mendoza in completing her registered counseling training. Dinora has worked diligently between outreach events to complete this valuable training and we are so proud of her!! Once Dinora receives her completed registration identification from the California Department of Aging she will be available to counsel onsite at senior centers and community centers. Great job Dinora!!

### **Volunteer Program**

Do our volunteers make a difference? **Absolutely!!**  
So far, during the 2022 Annual Open Enrollment HICAP has been able

to counsel an additional 42 Medicare Beneficiaries due to the assistance our volunteers graciously provided. Great job Wayne McMillen (Our Clovis Senior Center Counselor), Gyan Shanker, and Wayne Clarke. We appreciate you and I know our clients do to!

Would you like to make a difference in the lives of many too? If you are interested in volunteering and would like to learn more about opportunities available in the HICAP program please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Robinson by phone at (559) 224-9117 ext. 304 or email [lrobinson@valleycrc.org](mailto:lrobinson@valleycrc.org).

**Our next scheduled volunteer orientation and training begins on January 10<sup>th</sup>.**

## **HICAP Innovation**



In honor of Native American Heritage Month, HICAP would love to share the amazing opportunity they recently had presenting to the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians at Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. HICAP felt honored to be invited to speak and share HICAP services with their elders and community members.

Unfortunately, many Native Americans do not know that they may coordinate their Indian Health services with Medicare and your local HICAP is on a mission to spread awareness. HICAP provided hundreds of pieces of Tribal literature from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to help educate these Medicare beneficiaries of their rights to Medicare benefits and preventative services, and how to coordinate them with their IHS.

HICAP is excited of what the future holds with Chukchansi and have already been invited back to present a series of Medicare presentations.

## **HICAP Presentations**



This month HICAP presented to the following:

- Ted C. Willis Senior Center on Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am
- Central California Legal Services on Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am
- Pinedale Senior Center on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am
- L.C. Hotchkiss Terraces on Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am
- Chukchansi on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am
- Reedley Sierra View Homes on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

Next month HICAP is scheduled to present virtually to the staff at St. Agnes Medical Center's California Tobacco Prevention Project on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm. HICAP is looking forward to spreading awareness about Medicare Cessation programs.

Please contact our office if you have any questions or would like more information about scheduling a presentation (559) 224-9117.

## **Senior Medicare Patrol:**

Consequences are High for Medicare Fraud, Errors, or Abuse



Medicare loses about \$60 billion annually because of fraud, errors, and abuse. But the real consequences are impossible to measure. People lose their own money, and their medical records can be compromised. Read an

article, which includes tips from the SMP, on the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) [website](#).

As always, please remember your HICAP counselors are cross trained as Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) liaisons and are able to assist you with your Medicare fraud reports, questions, and concerns. Please contact our office Monday – Friday from 8am – 5pm at

**Medicare Information: Open Enrollment ends on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>!!!!**

**Medicare Part B Premium and Deductible for 2022**

Medicare Part B covers physician services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment, and certain other medical and health services not covered by Medicare Part A.

Each year the Medicare Part B premium, deductible, and coinsurance rates are determined according to the Social Security Act. The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees will be \$170.10 for 2022, an increase of \$21.60 from \$148.50 in 2021. The annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries is \$233 in 2022, an increase of \$30 from the annual deductible of \$203 in 2021. The increases in the 2022 Medicare Part B premium and deductible are due to:

- Rising prices and utilization across the health care system that drive higher premiums year-over-year alongside anticipated increases in the intensity of care provided.
- Congressional action to significantly lower the increase in the 2021 Medicare Part B premium, which resulted in the \$3.00 per beneficiary per month increase in the Medicare Part B premium (that would have ended in 2021) being continued through 2025.
- Additional contingency reserves due to the uncertainty regarding the potential use of the Alzheimer's drug, Aduhelm™, by people with Medicare. In July 2021, CMS began a National Coverage Determination analysis process to determine whether and how Medicare will cover Aduhelm™ and similar drugs used to treat Alzheimer's disease. As that process is still underway, there is uncertainty regarding the coverage and use of such drugs by Medicare beneficiaries in 2022. While the outcome of the coverage determination is unknown, our projection in no way implies what the coverage determination will be, however, we must plan for the possibility of coverage for this high cost Alzheimer's drug which could, if covered, result in significantly higher expenditures for the Medicare program.

**Fundraising Event**

HICAP is a program of the Valley Caregiver Resource Center and VCRC organizes two annual fundraising events to help support our programs and keep providing free and low-cost services to our

community members:

- Spring: Annual Golf Tournament
- Fall: Annual Celebration of Care

We welcome interested parties to contact Executive Director, Michelle DiBuduo to learn more about how you can volunteer, donate, or sponsor one of our upcoming events:

Executive Director: Michelle DiBuduo

Phone: (559)224-9154

Email: [mdibuduo@valleycrc.org](mailto:mdibuduo@valleycrc.org)

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Resources for Fresno & Madera Counties**

For all the latest and up to date information regarding COVID vaccinations please visit the below resources:

Fresno County vaccine schedule:

<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument?id=51485>

To inquire about Fresno County vaccines:

<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-health/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-information>

Fresno County vaccination sites:

<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/Home/ShowDocument?id=52599>

#### **Fresno County COVID-19 Vaccination Sites**

Fresno County COVID-19 Vaccination Sites Aria Health Centers - Riverdale 3554 W. Mt. Whitney Ave. Riverdale 93656 (559) 867-4000 Valley Health Team - San Joaquin 21890 W. Colorado Ave. San Joaquin 93660 (559) 693-2462

[www.co.fresno.ca.us](http://www.co.fresno.ca.us)

To inquire about Madera County vaccines:

<https://www.maderacounty.com/government/public-health/covid-19/covid-vaccination>

Madera County detailed information and frequently asked questions:

<https://www.maderacounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument?id=23754>

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions**

COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions January 5, 2021 • Dialysis centers • Intermediate care facilities for persons who need non -continuous nursing supervision and supportive care • Home health care and in-home supportive services • Community health workers, including promotors • Public health field staff • Primary Care clinics, including Federally Qualified Health Centers.

[www.maderacounty.com](http://www.maderacounty.com)

**For program updates and more information, please visit our website:**

<https://valleycrc.org/hicap-program/>

[HICAP Program - Valley Caregiver Resources Center](#)

Contact Information. Jennifer Webb Program Manager, HICAP Phone: (559) 224-9117 or (800) 434-0222 Email: [jwebb@valleycrc.org](mailto:jwebb@valleycrc.org) HICAP is a member of the National State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) network.

[valleycrc.org](http://valleycrc.org)

**We are always here to help and share our services!  
Best Wishes, from the  
Fresno/Madera HICAP Team** □

Jennifer, Laura, Jean, Maria & Dinora  
Gyan, Sandra, Wayne C. Dan, and Wayne M.

**The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) is a  
Program of The Valley Caregiver Resource Center**



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