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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release  
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Feb. 17, 2005

Ministry of Health Services

### **MSP PREMIUM ASSISTANCE TO BE ENHANCED**

VICTORIA – Changes to the provincial Medical Service Plan premium assistance program will reduce or eliminate monthly premiums for an estimated 215,000 British Columbians.

Amendments to the premium assistance program will come into effect Aug. 1, 2005. Examples of how British Columbians will benefit from the new premium assistance rates include:

- **Example #1 – Single person**  
A single person with a \$25,000 annual net income will be eligible for 40 per cent assistance and will pay monthly premiums of \$32.40 or \$388.80 a year, a reduction of \$259.20 annually.
- **Example #2 – Senior couple**  
The adjusted net income for a senior couple with a \$34,000 annual income is \$25,000. This couple will be eligible for the 40 per cent level of assistance and will pay monthly premiums of \$52.60 per month, or \$691.20 annually, a reduction of \$460.80 annually.
- **Example #3 – Family of four**  
The adjusted net income for a family of four with a \$34,000 annual income is \$25,000. This family will be eligible for the 40 per cent level of assistance and pay monthly premiums of \$64.80 or \$777.60 a year, a reduction of \$518.40 annually. (Note: if an applicant or spouse has claimed child care expenses on their return, one half of the child care expenses must be deducted from the allowable \$3,000 for each child).

People who wish to apply for premium assistance are asked to complete and return an application form to the Medical Services Plan, prior to Aug. 1, 2005.

Information and forms are available online at [www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/msp](http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/msp) or telephone Victoria: 250 382-8406; Vancouver: 604 683-7151; or, other areas of B.C. (toll-free): 1 800 663-7100.

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