

Federal employees are not required to work.

**§ 407.14 Initial enrollment period.**

(a) *Duration.* (1) The initial enrollment period is the 7-month period that begins 3 months before the month an individual first meets the eligibility requirements of § 407.10 and ends 3 months after that first month of eligibility.

(2) In determining the initial enrollment period of an individual who is age 65 or over and eligible for enrollment solely because of entitlement to hospital insurance, the individual is considered as first meeting the eligibility requirements for SMI on the first day he or she becomes entitled to hospital insurance or would have been entitled if he or she filed an application for that program.

(b) *Deemed initial enrollment period.* (1) SSA or CMS will establish a deemed initial enrollment period for an individual who fails to enroll during the initial enrollment period because of a belief, based on erroneous documentary evidence, that he or she had not yet attained age 65. The period will be established as though the individual had attained age 65 on the date indicated by the incorrect information.

(2) A deemed initial enrollment period established under paragraph (b)(1) of this section is used to determine the individual's premium and right to enroll in a general enrollment period if that is advantageous to the individual.

**§ 407.15 General enrollment period.**

(a) Except as specified in paragraph (b) of this section, the general enrollment period is January through March of each calendar year.

(b) An unlimited general enrollment period existed between April 1 and September 30, 1981. Any eligible individual whose initial enrollment period had ended, or whose previous period of entitlement had terminated, could have enrolled or reenrolled during any month of that 6-month period.

**§ 407.17 Automatic enrollment.**

(a) *Who is automatically enrolled.* An individual is automatically enrolled for SMI if he or she:

(1) Resides in the United States, except in Puerto Rico;

(2) Becomes entitled to hospital insurance under any of the provisions set forth in §§ 406.10 through 406.15 of this chapter; and

(3) Does not decline SMI enrollment.

(b) *Opportunity to decline automatic enrollment.* (1) SSA will notify an individual that he or she is automatically enrolled under paragraph (a) of this section and grant the individual a specified period (at least 2 months after the month the notice is mailed) to decline enrollment.

(2) The individual may decline enrollment by submitting to SSA or CMS a signed statement that he or she does not wish SMI.

(3) The statement must be submitted before entitlement begins, or if later, within the time limits set in the notice of enrollment.

**§ 407.18 Determining month of automatic enrollment.**

(a) An individual who is automatically enrolled in SMI under § 407.17 will have the month of enrollment determined in accordance with paragraphs (b) through (f) of this section. The month of enrollment determines the month of entitlement.

(b) An individual is automatically enrolled in the third month of the initial enrollment period if he or she—

(1) Is entitled to social security benefits under section 202 of the Act on the first day of the initial enrollment period;

(2) Is entitled to hospital insurance based on end-stage renal disease; on entitlement to disability benefits as a social security or railroad retirement beneficiary; or on deemed entitlement to disability benefits on the basis of Medicare-qualified government employment; or

(3) Establishes entitlement to hospital insurance by filing an application and meeting all other requirements (as set forth in subpart B of part 406 of this chapter) during the first 3 months of the initial enrollment period.

(c) If an individual establishes entitlement to hospital insurance on the basis of an application filed in the last 4 months of the SMI initial enrollment