**External Newsletter Copy for Nursing Homes**

**Information suitable for a newsletter article to your patients, residents
or their family members**

 **[Word count: 419]**

**U.S. Department of the Treasury Requires Federal Benefit Payments to be Made Electronically**

*Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service*

The U.S. Department of the Treasury requires’ federal benefit payments to be paid electronically. People who still receive paper federal benefit checks should comply with the law.

Benefit payments that must be switched to an electronic payment include Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement Board, Veterans Affairs, Office of Personnel Management and Department of Labor (Black Lung).

If you already receive your federal benefit payment electronically, you do not need to take action. You will continue to receive these payments as usual on the payment day.

**Electronic Payment Options**

For people who still received their benefit by paper check, the Treasury Department recommends two electronic payment options: **direct deposit** to a bank or credit union account or the **Direct Express**® Debit Mastercard® card.

**Direct deposit** is the ideal payment option for nursing home residents. Funds can be deposited either into the individual’s own account or into a Resident Trust Account. Nursing home administrators can provide the information you need to help your loved one set up **direct deposit** into the Resident Trust Account if you are the designated representative payee.

Another option is the **Direct Express**® card, which allows individuals or representative payees to receive federal benefit payments electronically without maintaining a bank or credit union account. While the **Direct Express**® card may work well for some, it is not the preferred electronic payment method for nursing home residents.

**Be Prepared to Make the Switch**

Have the following information on hand when you make the switch to electronic payments:

* 12-digit check number of benefit recipient’s most recent federal benefit check
* Amount of benefit recipient’s most recent federal benefit check
* Financial institution’s routing transit number *(direct deposit only)*
* Account number and account type – checking or savings *(direct deposit only)*

**Make the Switch Today!**

It’s fast, easy and free to switch to an electronic payment method today. You can sign up:

* At your local bank or credit union branch;
* Online at the Treasury Department’s ***Go Direct***® website, [www.GoDirect.gov](http://www.GoDirect.gov);
* By calling the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center at (800) 333-1795.
* If you would like the benefit payment deposited into a nursing home or long-term care facility’s Resident Trust Account, you will need to speak with the facility’s staff.

For more information, visit [www.GoDirect.gov](http://www.GoDirect.gov).