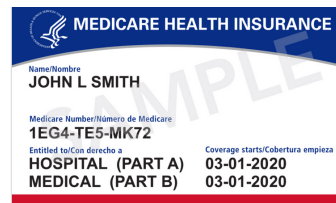


TURNING 65

A CHECKLIST TO ASSIST IN YOUR PREPARATION FOR MEDICARE ENROLLMENT



9 MONTHS BEFORE TURNING 65

- Determine if you should (or are required to) enroll in Medicare IF YOU ARE STILL WORKING. This will include consulting with your employer's benefits administrator if you need to sign up for Medicare Part A & Part B when you turn 65. How Medicare will coordinate with your existing benefits depends on the size of your employer.
- If you have a Health Savings Account (HSA) & you plan to enroll in Part A or any other part of Medicare, you & your employer should stop contributing to your HSA 6 months before you apply for Medicare benefits. This will ensure you avoid a tax penalty. The IRS does not allow contributions to an HSA when enrolled in Medicare.
- If you are already receiving Social Security benefits, you will automatically be enrolled in Medicare Part A & Part B when you become eligible. Look to receive by mail your Medicare enrollment information several months before your eligibility date.

3 MONTHS BEFORE TURNING 65

- Your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)** for Medicare begins 3 months before you Turn 65, includes the month you Turn 65 & ends 3 months after you Turn 65. **This is the time period you have to enroll in both Parts A & B, if Medicare will be your primary insurance.** You can enroll at your local Social Security Administration Office or on their website: ssa.gov. If you will remain under an employer's group health plan, follow the guidance of your current plan's benefits administrator.
- Know your coverage start date. **IF** you sign up in the 3 months before you Turn 65, your coverage will start the first of the month you Turn 65. **IF** you wait to enroll til your birth month, coverage will start the month after.
- Check the status of your Medicare enrollment online through the Social Security Administration website: ssa.gov. Look for a welcome to Medicare packet w/ your Medicare card to arrive in the mail, about 2-3 weeks after you enroll.
- You will need your Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI), which is an 11-character alphanumeric number on your Medicare card, to enroll in Prescription Drug Plan (Part D), a Medicare Supplement Plan (Medigap) OR a Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C).
- Enroll in the Medicare Supplement Plan (Medigap), Prescription Drug Plan (Part D) OR Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C) of your choice.

6 MONTHS BEFORE TURNING 65

- Learn About the Parts of Medicare: Part A (Hospital), Part B (Medical), Part C (Medicare Advantage), Part D (Prescription Drug Plans) & avoiding any late enrollment penalties.
- Learn the Difference between Medicare Supplement Plans (also known as Medigap) & Advantage Plans.
- Research & choose your Medicare plan based on your specific needs, review the plan costs, coverages, ensure your Rx's are in the drug formulary, & your doctors & hospitals are in the plan's network.
- Calculate your expected monthly premiums, out of pocket medical & prescription costs. This calculation should include any income-related monthly adjusted amount (IRMAA), which is a surcharge added to Part B & Part D for high income earners.

THE MONTH BEFORE TURNING 65

- Make sure you have received your Red, White & Blue Medicare Card from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Make sure you have received your Medicare Supplement Card & Part D Plan Card OR your Medicare Advantage Plan Card.
- Cancel your old health plan if necessary.

ANNUALLY

- Look for your Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) documents to arrive around September/October for Medicare Advantage Plans (Part C) & Prescription Drug Plans (Part D). Review for any plan changes that would impact your services.
- If needed, change your Medicare Advantage Plan and/or your Part D Plan during the Annual Election Period (10/15-12/7). No action is required for Medicare Supplement (Medigap) Plans as these coverages cannot be changed per federal regulation & state law.

Disclaimer: This checklist is for informational purposes only & is not exhaustive in scope to prepare for Medicare enrollment. To address a specific situation about enrolling in Medicare, please contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213