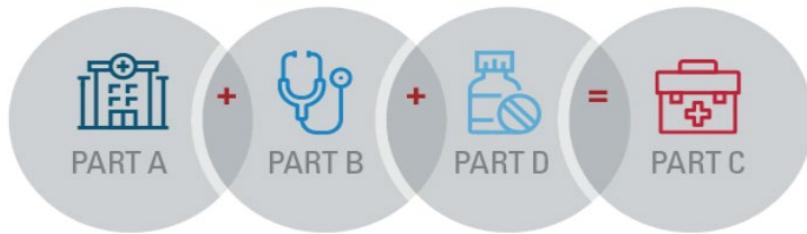


UNDERSTANDING

# Medicare



## 1. ORIGINAL MEDICARE PARTS A & B

- Medicare Part A is coverage for your inpatient hospital stays, hospice care and skilled nursing care.
- Medicare Part B is all your outpatient services including doctor visits.
- Enrollment is 3 months before or after your 65<sup>th</sup> birth month. You may defer enrollment in part B if still covered by an employer plan.
- Original Medicare parts A & B matched with a medigap policy will cover you at nearly all doctors and hospitals in the country with little out of pocket cost.

## 2. THE COST OF MEDICARE

- Part A is free to all who are eligible. The cost for Part B in 2026 starts at \$202.90 for most individuals. If you have a higher income, you may be charged more for Part B due to the \* IRMAA schedule.

## 3. MEDICARE PART C (*aka MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS*)

- Advantage plans are managed care HMO and PPO programs. Some plans offer additional benefits (i.e. dental or prescription coverage.)
- You must still have parts A & B (subject to \* IRMAA).
- You will have to go to select doctors and hospitals to get the maximum benefit.
- There may be little or no premium, but plans are subject to co-pays and in some cases, co-insurance.
- You may have \$2,500 to \$5,000 out of pocket expense per year depending on your plan.
- You are 100% a client of the insurance carrier. All claims are paid by and subject to their policies and procedures as well as network availability.

\* Contact us for a free copy of the IRMAA schedule

#### **4. MEDICARE PART D (*RX PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM*)**

- Premiums are based on your geographic area and plan selection.
- All plans may have co-pays as well as deductibles.
- Can only switch plans during open enrollment.
- Must have Medicare A & B.
- Is subject to IRMAA.
- Late enrollees after initial eligibility may be subject to a penalty.

#### **5. MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT (*aka Medigap*)**

- Works in tandem with Part A and B.
- Picks up unpaid balance from Part A and B.
- Plan benefits are standardized for all carriers.
- Covers everything that Medicare covers.
- Rated by age and geographic area.
- May switch companies at any time throughout the year, not subject to open enrollment periods.
- Paired with original Medicare A and B, you may see any doctor or hospital in the country that accepts Medicare.

#### **6. MISCELLANEOUS**

- With all plans, initial enrollment is guaranteed 3 months either side of your 65th birth month, or if you have a qualifying event such as loss of creditable coverage from an employer plan.
- After initial enrollment, Part D & C are subjected to open enrollment periods in the fall of the year to switch plan carriers.
- If you qualify for Medicare, you can receive financial help with Medicare Part B and Part D cost.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at:

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