

MEDICARE

A snapshot view of Medicare and the many options that are available.
Most importantly RESEARCH to find the plan that is best for you and your needs.

Open Enrollment October 15 thru December 7

What is Medicare

Medicare is a federal health coverage program for:

- People age 65 or older,
- People under 65 with certain disabilities, and
- People of any age with End State Renal Disease (ESRD) (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).
- To estimate Medicare eligibility and premium amounts, consumers may visit 1-800 Medicare 1-800-633-4887 or Medicare; also Medicare.gov.

Different parts of Medicare

Medicare Part A

Medicare Part B

Medicare Part C

Medicare Part D

Medigap

Medicare Part A:

Covers hospital, hospice and some home care

Medicare Part B:

Covers doctor visits and other outpatient services

Medicare Part C:

Advantage plans

Medicare D

Covers prescription drugs

Medigap

Supplements original Medicare

Medicare Part A & B

- **What is Medicare Part A & B?**
- Medicare Part A (along with Medicare Part B) make up what is commonly known as **Original or Traditional Medicare**. Part A specifically covers hospital care, skilled nursing facility care, hospice care and home health care. While Part B cover such things as doctor services, outpatient care, and preventive services.
- Part A and Part B are foundational to your Medicare program. You have to be at least 65 years old (or younger if you have certain medical conditions) to qualify. If you don't have private insurance, such as an employer, but want more coverage, you can add Medicare's other parts to support the medical coverage you need.
- **Who is eligible for Medicare Part A & B?**
- Eligibility for Parts A and B (Original Medicare) are the same. You don't have to have Part B to get Part A, so if you do choose to sign up for Medicare A without enrolling in Medicare Part B, know that the eligibility requirements do not change. Just be aware that if you choose to delay Part B coverage because you already have credible coverage, you have 8 months after that credible coverage ends to enroll in Part B before penalties kick in.

Medicare Part C

Medicare Advantage plans (also called Medicare Part C) provide the same coverage as Medicare Part A and Part B, and many also offer additional benefits at no extra cost. Enrollment may be limited to certain times of the year unless you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.

Most plans include prescription drug coverage

Many plans may include dental, vision, or hearing coverage

\$0 or low premium and \$0 deductible plans may be available in your area

Some require that you exclusively see in-network providers.

Benefits and features depend on the area you live

If you choose a Part C plan you will no longer need to use your traditional Medicare (red, white, and blue card)

Medicare Part D

Pays for outpatient prescription drugs

Does cover some self-injected medicines, such as insulin for diabetes but, not chemotherapy, dialysis or other medicines that are injected or given intravenously at a doctor's office or outpatient facility.

Does not pay for over-the-counter medications or medicines used for hair growth or weight loss.

There is a monthly premium and deductible

Medicare Advantage Plans (Part C) may cover the cost of your premium and deductible

Medigap

If you decide to enroll in original Medicare, one way you can help pay the extra costs the program doesn't cover is to buy a supplemental – or Medigap – insurance policy. Here's what you need to know if you're in the market for a supplemental policy.

1. Medigap plans are only for original Medicare enrollees

They are sold by private insurance companies but regulated by states and the federal government. Original Medicare pays 80 percent of covered Part B health care services. Medigap insurance typically covers the 20 percent that is your responsibility to pay, along with some other health care costs.

2. The best time to buy a Medigap plan is (generally) when you first enroll in Medicare

You can buy any Medigap plan available in our state – and insurers can't turn you down or charge you more due to preexisting health condition.

3. Some states set their own enrollment rules

Medicare beneficiaries may be allowed to buy a Medigap plan at any time without being denied. Other states let you switch plans at designated times.

4. Research

To decide which plan are available in your state and what is best for you

12 free things with Medicare

- 1. One time welcome to Medicare visit
- 2. Yearly Wellness Visit
- 3. Vaccines
- 4. Diabetes Screenings
- 5. Depression Screenings
- 6. Mammograms
- 7. Colorectal Cancer Screenings
- 8. Lung Cancer Screenings
- 9. Prostate Cancer Test
- 10. Smoking Counseling
- 11. Alcohol Counseling
- 12. Nutrition Therapy

1. Don't ignore open enrollment

Too many people let open enrollment come and go without checking to make sure their current coverage will take care of their medical needs and that they are getting the best deal financially.

2. Know what you can and can't change

If you are on original Medicare, it's easy to switch to a Medicare Advantage (MA) plan if you choose to do so. And if you already have an MA plan and want to switch to a different MA plan, that's also not a problem. MA plans are the private insurance alternative to original Medicare.

3. Look at all of your costs

There are several different out-of-pocket costs under Medicare. Depending on which option you have (original or Medicare Advantage) and whether you get your prescription drugs through a standalone Part D prescription drug plan or through your MA plan, you'll need to check to see how your various costs are changing for 2024:

4. Check in with your doctors

As you weigh your options, talk to your doctors. If you're on original Medicare, you'll want to make sure your providers still participate in Medicare. The vast majority of doctors in the U.S. do, but it doesn't hurt to check. If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, check with your physicians to make sure they are still in your plan's network.

5. Don't wait until the last minute

You may need some time to work through whether you want to make changes to your coverage.

6. It's not your last chance to make changes

If you don't take advantage of the annual open enrollment period, Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, there are ways you can make changes at other times during the year.

RESEARCH

Find the plan that works best for you

Questions?

Call 1-800 Medicare (1800-633-4227)

Medicare.gov

Talk to your Doctor