



Medicare Made Simple

We know signing up for Medicare coverage can be complicated. We're here to help.



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NAVIGATING MEDICARE

The Medicare mile markers is on the horizon. Most U.S. citizens become eligible at 65 for the health insurance program facilitated by the federal government, with an open enrollment period at the end of each calendar year thereafter. Given somewhat complicated coverage options, Part A, Part B, Part D, Part C, Medigap - it's easy to get lost on the Medicare enrollment journey. Fortunately, we can get you there.



GETTING STARTED: Eligibility

Most U.S. citizens become eligible for Medicare on the first day of the month in which they turn 65.

► ARE YOU NEARING 65?

YES

NO - You remain eligible for health insurance offered through the Marketplace or an employer.

This is your exit. See you down the road!



► ARE YOU ALREADY ENROLLED IN MEDICARE?

YES - Take the express lane

NO

ARRIVING ON TIME: Enrollment

If you already collect Social Security benefits, you will automatically be enrolled in Parts A and B - no speed bumps for you. If not, there are three enrollment scenarios:

- 1 Initial Enrollment Period:** You can apply during a seven-month window around your 65th birthday - the month of your birthday, plus three months prior and three months after.
- 2 Special Enrollment Period:** If you have group coverage through current employment, yours or your spouse's, check whether the employer requires you to enroll in Medicare when first eligible. If not, you can wait for a special enrollment period that extends to eight months after the employment coverage ends.
- 3 General Enrollment Period:** If you did not sign up during initial or special periods, you can enroll each year from Jan. 1 to March 31. **Be aware: you could pay a higher premium for late enrollment.**



CHANGING LANES: Open enrollment

Each year from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, you can review your itinerary - coverage choices, and change your selections.



CHOOSING ACCOMMODATIONS: Coverage options

You've arrived at a crossroads: you need to choose between original Medicare and Part C. Consider the options carefully.

OPTION 1: ORIGINAL MEDICARE

PART A - HOSPITAL INSURANCE

Helps pay for a stay in the hospital or skilled nursing facility, home healthcare, hospice care and medicines administered to inpatients.

BOTTOM LINE: typically, everyone benefits from Part A.

PART B - MEDICAL INSURANCE

Helps pay for physician and outpatient services such as office visits, rehab therapy, lab tests, medical equipment and doctors' services in the hospital.

BOTTOM LINE: you can opt out of Part B if you have another source for medical insurance.

PART D - PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE (OPTIONAL)

Helps pay for physician and outpatient services such as office visits, rehab therapy, lab tests, medical equipment and doctors' services in the hospital.

BOTTOM LINE: you can opt out of Part B if you have another source for medical insurance.

MEDIGAP - SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE (OPTIONAL)

Offered by private companies, helps fill in the potholes in original Medicare coverage to minimize out-of-pocket expenses such as deductibles, copays and coinsurance.

BOTTOM LINE: Medigap is optional, but you must enroll in Parts A and B. Benefits are similar in all states, but new policies do not offer prescription drug coverage.

OPTION 2: PART C - MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Provided by private HMOs/PPOs, Part C includes Part A and Part B services except hospice; most plans include Part D prescription drug coverage, and some cover vision, hearing, dental and wellness programs that are not part of original Medicare.

BOTTOM LINE: you must be enrolled in Parts A and B, but cannot select Part D or Medigap. The Part C premium is an addition to the Part B premium.

80%

Medicare pays only about 80% of medical costs.



You'll still have premiums, deductibles and copays.



Original Medicare does not cover dental, vision, or hearing costs.



Medicare does not cover long-term care costs.



GET UP TO SPEED

Contact us for additional information about Medicare and how to incorporate healthcare coverage and expenses into your financial plan.

CONTACT US