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# MEDICARE FAQ

FOR EMPLOYEES WHO ARE APPROACHING  
OR OVER THE AGE OF 65 AND PLANNING  
TO RETIRE IN THE NEXT 6 MONTHS



As you make your plans to retire, you need to make several important decisions about your Medicare coverage.

This Medicare FAQ will help you:

- Decide whether to enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B when you retire (if you haven't already)
- Decide whether you need additional coverage (Medicare Advantage, Medigap)
- Decide whether you need Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D).



## WHEN DO I NEED TO DECIDE?

Even if you will have other coverage available to you after you retire, you will still need to make some Medicare enrollment decisions before you stop working. There can be penalties if you do not enroll on time, so it is best to make these decisions before you stop working.

## WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS FOR COVERAGE?

We understand that not everyone approaches their health insurance coverage from the same place. Maybe cost is your biggest concern or health issues may have you more focused on benefits. That's why it's good to have choices.

- **Original Medicare (includes Medicare Part A and Part B):**
  - Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing facility, hospice, lab tests, surgery, home health care.
  - Medicare Part B covers doctor and other health care providers' services and outpatient care. Part B also covers durable medical equipment, home health care, and some preventive services.
- **Medicare Advantage Plans (Part C):** Covers your Medicare Part A and Part B services and may include additional benefits like dental, vision and prescription drug coverage.
- **Medicare Prescription Plans (Part D):** Covers the cost of certain generic and brand name prescription medications.
- **Medicare Supplement Plans (Medigap):** Supplemental health insurance plans offered by private insurance companies that lower your out-of-pocket costs by paying a portion of covered services that original Medicare leaves you to pay.

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR MEDICARE COVERAGE OPTIONS



	ORIGINAL MEDICARE (Part A & Part B)	MEDICARE ADVANTAGE (Part C)	MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION (Part D)	MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS (Medigap)
<b>Things to know</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government pays directly for the services you receive</li> <li>You can see any doctor or hospital that accepts Medicare</li> <li>Prescription drug coverage is usually limited to medications administered in a doctor's office or outpatient setting</li> <li>You can enroll when you first become eligible for Medicare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You receive your benefits from a private insurance carrier</li> <li>Many plans include prescription drug benefits</li> <li>Your plan may have provider network restrictions</li> <li>You can only enroll during certain times of the year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You receive your benefits from a private insurance carrier</li> <li>You can only enroll during certain times of the year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You receive your benefits from a private insurance carrier</li> <li>You can see any doctor or hospital that accepts Medicare</li> <li>Plans are standardized — the benefits from plan to plan are the same from every insurance carrier</li> <li>Plans do not include prescription drug benefits</li> </ul>
<b>Cost</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most people don't pay a monthly premium for Part A</li> <li>You must pay a Part B premium</li> <li>Generally pays for 80% of your covered costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must continue to pay your Part B premium</li> <li>You may have to pay an additional monthly premium</li> <li>You may have to pay a copay or coinsurance for certain services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You pay an additional monthly premium (some states may offer premium assistance if you qualify)</li> <li>You may have to pay a copayment or coinsurance for certain covered medications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You pay an additional monthly premium</li> <li>Premium costs vary between insurance companies</li> <li>Out-of-pocket costs can vary between plans</li> </ul>
<b>Might be right for you if...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have a limited budget and low healthcare needs</li> <li>When you turn 65, if you are working and your employer is primary, you do not need to enroll in part B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You want additional benefits not covered under Original Medicare</li> <li>You want all of your benefits included in one plan</li> <li>You want an annual limit on the total costs you're required to pay</li> </ul>	You have Original Medicare and/or a Medicare Supplement plan and you want additional coverage for prescription drugs	You have a flexible budget, want more freedom in choosing the healthcare providers you see and want coverage when you travel

## PICK THE PATH TO COVERAGE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

### PATH 1

#### ORIGINAL MEDICARE (PARTS A & B) + PART D + MEDIGAP



Government Provided

Offered by Private Companies

### PATH 2

#### MEDICARE ADVANTAGE (PART C)



Offered by Private Companies



## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION OR HELP?

It can be confusing when it comes to finding your way around Medicare. For more information:

- Call: **1-800-MEDICARE** (1-800-633-4227)
- Visit the Medicare website at **Medicare.gov**
- Download “**Medicare & You**” handbook that can be found on **Medicare.gov** or request a copy by calling **1-800-MEDICARE**

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