

GUIDE TO MEDICARE

What You Need to Know Before Enrolling in Medicare



Over 65 million Americans depend on Medicare to cover their health care expenses.



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The Parts of Medicare

Medicare covers a wide variety of drugs and therapies through Original Medicare Part A, Part B, Part C and Part D.



Original Medicare Part A

Covers drugs administered in a hospital or nursing facility.

Example: Part A covers the cost of medication needed to recover from hospital procedures, like a hip replacement.



Original Medicare Part B

Covers drugs administered in a doctor's office or a hospital or outpatient setting.

Example: Part B covers chemotherapy for someone getting weekly infusions at the doctor's office.



Medicare Part C

Also known as Medicare Advantage (MA)

Covers everything typically covered by Part A & Part B.

Most MA plans also include Part D prescription drug coverage (MAPD Plans).



Medicare Part D

Covers prescription drugs.

Part D plans must cover at least two drugs in each of the six therapeutic categories: antidepressants, antipsychotics, anticonvulsants, immunosuppressants, antiretrovirals, and antineoplastics.

What Is a Medicare Supplement?

Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) for Original Medicare.

Medicare Supplement Insurance, also known as **Medigap policies**, help cover the gaps left behind by Original Medicare Part A & Part B. Medigap will pay for copayments, coinsurance and deductibles. Additionally, people with Original Medicare Part A & Part B see a benefit when purchasing a Medigap policy to **supplement their Medicare benefits**. Medigap policies will not work with Medicare Advantage plans. The enrollee must switch back to Original Medicare Part A & Part B to have a Medigap policy. Furthermore, an employer or union may pay for additional insurance that a Medicare policy does not cover.

Medicare Supplement policies **F, G, K, L, M and N** offer a variety of benefits. While the benefits of each policy with the same letter designation are the same, some companies charge more than others.

Medicare Supplement *Medigap*

Doctor Bills

Your doctor provides medical services and bills Medicare.

Medicare Pays

Medicare pays the approved portion of the bill and sends the excess amount to the insurance company.

Medigap Pays

Your Medigap plan pays the excess amount left over, according to the policy terms.

What Is a Medicare Advantage?

A Medicare Advantage plan is a private health insurance plan approved by Medicare. Members get their care from a network of doctors and hospitals. You may opt to get your Part A, B and D benefits from a Medicare Advantage plan instead of traditional Medicare. These Medicare private insurance plans usually have an HMO or PPO network of doctors.

Explaining Medicare Advantage

Medicare Advantage is required to offer the same coverage as Original Medicare Part A & Part B. By joining one of these plans, you direct Medicare to pay the Advantage plan a set monthly amount for your care. In return, the plan will deliver all your Part A & Part B services.

You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium while enrolled in an Advantage plan. You must be enrolled in both Medicare Parts A and B and live in the plan's service area. Medicare Advantage plans are NOT Medigap policies. They work differently because they pay instead of Medicare, not after Medicare.

Medicare Part D plans

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plans is insurance for medication needs. You will pay a monthly premium to an insurance carrier, then use the insurance carrier's network of pharmacies to purchase your prescription medications. Instead of paying full price, you will pay a copay or percentage of the drug's cost.

You can enroll in a standalone Part D prescription drug plan that goes alongside Original Medicare benefits, or you can choose a Part D drug plan that is built in to a Part C Medicare Advantage plan.



Insurance Information for Medicare Beneficiaries

There has never been a better time for Medicare eligibles who are selecting health care plans. There may be more options and benefits available.

Each person's situation is different. No matter your health or financial situation, there are a **variety of services available to you.** For some programs, it is important to enroll at a specific time. It is also important to select an option that not only works for your **current situation**, but also anticipates your **future needs.**