Medicare Tips

A person should determine which coverages they are likely to need. Often the most comprehensive plan is not necessary.

There Are a Few Low Income ProgramsDo You Qualify?
There are low income programs to help you pay for Part B or Part D cost, based on your Gross Monthly Income.

QMB- Qualified Medicare Beneficiary: Limited assets & low income can pay for A&B deductibles & 20% co-insurance on Part B.

SLMB - Specified Low Income Beneficiary

Even if you don't qualify for full-LIS benefits, you could be eligible for partial-LIS benefits if your income level is at or below 150% FPL (resource limits also apply - see charts below). Remember, the LIS subsidy or Extra Help may help pay your monthly Medicare Part D plan premiums and a portion of your formulary drug costs.

If you even think you might qualify, apply at your local Medi-Cal office.

FEDERAL LOW INCOME TABLE

Program/Benefits		Annual Income Limits
*QMB	Premiums, deductibles & Coinsurance–Parts A&B	Single: $15,060 Married: $20,440
*SLMB	Part B Premium	Single: $18,072 Married: $24,528
*QI	Part B Premium	Single: $20,331 Married: $27,594

***NO ASSET LIMITS as of January 1, 2024**

Once enrolled in a Medicare Supplement and Drug Plan or Medicare Advantage Plan: It is important to check in with us during open enrollment periods or when you have a life change. While your policy may continue, rates will change, your needs change, and the list of drugs covered by these policies change. Keep these dates in mind and be certain to check in with us to make sure you always have the policies that are best for your current situation.

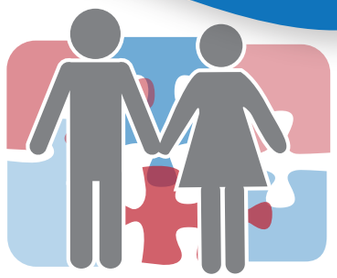
Medicare Supplements: Check in within 30 days of your birthday. The same plan may be available for less cost with another carrier. If that is the case, we can move you with no underwriting using the "Birthday Rule".

Medicare Part D Drug Plans: Open enrollment is every year between Oct. 15th and Dec. 7th. EVERY YEAR. Let us help you run your list of medications at Medicare.gov., even if you like your plan!

Plans elected during this enrollment start Jan.1 of the next year.

Ask me about financial planning tips to avoid paying higher Part B&D premiums

Unraveling the Mysteries of MEDICARE



A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

I don't sell, I TEACH, then help you select the best plan for YOU



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Key Facts

Medicare has several parts & each part provides a different type of coverage. You can choose which parts you want to enroll in, along with supplements to cover out of pocket costs.

Who's Eligible

- U.S. citizen or legal resident (living in the U.S. for at least 5 years in a row)
- 65 years or older, or younger with a qualifying disability

Free Help, in Person & Video Guide Available

Call 831-423-8542, for a web, or in-person appointment. Or book an appointment online:
https://mytime.com/lowcostcahealth

What You'll Need at Your Appointment

- Medicare Card
- Proof of Insurance (if enrolling after age 65), bring information about the employer plan you are leaving.
- List of medications. Include: Drug names • Dosages • Frequency
- Current health insurance cards–a must if you're changing Medicare supplements.

WHAT IS MEDICARE AND WHAT CHOICES DO I HAVE?
[open for pictoral version]

When can I enroll?

- In most cases, if you are on Social Security you will be automatically enrolled in Parts A & B. If you have deferred taking Social Security, go to medicare.gov to enroll in Parts A&B.
- As soon as you become eligible for Medicare, or up to 3 months before turning 65. If you work beyond 65 with employer-sponsored coverage (NOT Individual Insurance or COBRA), you can delay until you lose employer coverage, without penalty.
- Note: People not on Social Security will not get a letter prompting them to enroll. You must take the initiative to get signed up during Medicare's "Open Enrollment".

How can I enroll?

- Up to 3 mo. before turning 65, go to medicare.gov. Scroll down the page to the blue box, and the "Apply for Medicare Only" button. Follow the simple application until you receive an "application complete" message. Or, you can make an appointment at your local Social Security office which is often VERY busy.
- If you have delayed Medicare Part B to stay on an employer plan, you will need to fill out Form CMS 40B, available on ssa.gov and submit that to enroll in Part B. Proof of your employer coverage will be required to avoid receiving a penalty.
- If you delay in enrolling in Medicare Part B & did not have employer coverage, you will be assessed a 10% penalty per each year you did not have coverage. (Example: 2 yrs. without Part B=20% lifetime penalty).

STEP 1 Enroll in Original Medicare Government Provided

PART A

Inpatient Hospital Stay
You Pay Deductible:*$1,776
Coinsurance: You Pay:
Days 1-60: *$0/day
Days 61-90: *$444day
60 lifetime reserve days: *$888/day

Skilled Nursing Facility Stay Coinsurance:
(3-day inpatient stay required first)
You Pay:
Days 1-20: *$0/day
Days 21-100: *$222day

*per benefit period

Cost: usually free

*Benefit period ends 60 days after release from care

PART B

Covers doctors & outpatient visits & procedures

Annual Deductible: $292/calendar year

You pay: Generally 20% after $292 deductible is met

2026: $209.40mo. Standard Premium

See Govt adjustments table below

YOU ARE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE COVERAGE

Part B Premium (including high income Part B & Part D) paid to Medicare: Those enrolled in Part B will pay at least the standard $209.40/mo premium (based on income). Higher income earners will pay a Part B IRMAA (Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount) in addition to the $209.400/mo standard premium.

Higher income earners who are enrolled in Part D Prescription Drug coverage also pay a Part D IRMAA in addition to the monthly insurance premium for a Part D prescription drug plan or Medicare Advantage plan that includes Part D coverage. (see table below)

If your yearly income(MAGI: Modified Adjusted Gross Income*) in 2025 as...			You pay in 2027 (per person) Monthly premiums to Medicare	
Individual Tax Return	Joint Tax Return	Married & Separate Tax Return	Part B Premium + IRMAA	Part D IRMAA In addition to Part D plan premium
$112,000 or less	$224,000 or less	$112,000 or less	$209.40	—
$112,001 to $141,000	$224,001 to $282,000	NA	$293.40 ($209.40+$83.70)	+ $15.40
$141,001 to $177000	$282,001 to $354,000	NA	$418.80 ($209.40 + $209.40)	+ $39.70
$177,001 to $212,000	$354,001 to $424,000	NA	$544.40 ($209.40 + $335.00)	+ $64.00
$212,001 to $500,000	$424,001 to $750,000	$112,001 to $388,000	$670.00 ($209.40 + $460.60)	+ $88.30
$500,001+	$750,001+	$388,001+	$711.800 ($209.40+$502.40)	+ $96.40

*2025 MAGI=Adjusted Gross Income (Form 1040 line 11)+Tax-Exempt Interest (Form 1040 line 2a)

STEP 2 Fill the Gaps in Original Medicare

Private Carrier Purchase
We help you choose what's best for you

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT GAP

Costs $40/mo. and up

How it works:

- Private companies offer some of the 10 standardized plans
- They can see any doctor who participates in Medicare & who is accepting new patients
- No geographic limits
- Plans cover expenses approved by Medicare Parts A & B

PART D

Covers prescription drugs

Dozens of options $0 and up

PART D COST SHARING
See Chart

These additional amounts will be deducted from Social Security, or billed with your Medicare Part B premium bill

ABBREVIATED MEDICAL SUPPLEMENT CHART

*Plan F - only available to Medicare eligible before 01/01/2020	Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) Plans			
Benefits	**F***	**G***	**K***	**N**
Medicare Part A Coinsurance & hospital costs (up to an aditional 365 days after Medicare benefits are used)	100%	100%	100%	100%
Medicare Part B coinsurance or copayment	100%	100%	50%	100%
Blood (first 3 pints)	100%	100%	50%	100%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment	100%	100%	50%	100%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance	100%	100%	50%	100%
Part A deductible	100%	100%	50%	100%
Part B deductible	100%			
Part B excess charges	100%	100%		
Foreign travel emergency (up to plan limits)	80%	80%		80%
Out-of-pocket limit in 2026**	$8,360			

*For Plan K, after you meet your out-of-pocket yearly limit of $8,360, and your yearly Part B deductible ($292 for 2027), the Medigap plan pays 100% of covered services for the rest of the calendar year. Plan N has a $20 office visit copay, $50 ER copay.

*Plan G is also offered as a high-deductible plan by some insurance companies. Choosing this option means you must pay for Medicare covered procedures deductibles and 20% co-insurance up to the plans $3,050 annual deductible in 2026.Once that is met, Medicare and the high deductible plan G pays 100% for the balance of that calendar year.

OR Medicare Advantage PART C

- Offered & run by private companies
- Combines the government provision Medicare A & B
- May have additional benefits
- Most plans cover prescription drugs
- Are regional HMO/PPO with a specific network of doctors to use and have appointed service areas & nationwide emergency care
- Coverage limits & exclusions vary by plan
- Costs: You must continue to pay your Medicare B portion & the premium of the Advantage plan you choose. Most plans have deductibles, co-pays & co-insurance
- All plans have an out-of-pocket limit, which limits the amount people have to spend in a calendar year
- Plan availability and premium costs vary widely by zipcodes
- Any premium paid for these plans is in addition to your cost to continue enrollment in Medicare Part A&B

Watch the companion explanation of this brochure @ www.lowcostcahealth.com

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide may be limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-Medicare to get information on all of your options.