Medicare Made Easy

Your Quick Guide to Understanding Medicare

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What is Medicare?

Medicare is a federal health insurance program for:

- People aged 65 and older.
- Certain individuals under 65 with disabilities.
- People with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or ALS.

What Are the Parts of Medicare?

- **Part A (Hospital Insurance):** Covers inpatient hospital stays, skilled nursing facility care, hospice care, and some home health care.
- **Part B (Medical Insurance):** Covers outpatient care, doctor visits, preventive services, and medical supplies—but only pays 80% of approved costs, leaving you responsible for the remaining 20%.
- **Part C (Medicare Advantage):** Combines Parts A, B, and often D into a single plan, with additional benefits like vision, dental, and hearing.
- **Part D (Prescription Drug Coverage):** Covers prescription medications.

What if I'm Over 65 and Still Covered by Employer Health Insurance?

1 Determine if Your Employer Coverage is Creditable:

If your employer has **20+ employees**, your coverage is considered "creditable," and you can delay Medicare Part B without penalty.

If your employer has **fewer than 20 employees**, you need to enroll in Medicare Part B, as it becomes your primary insurance.

2 Steps to Transition from Employer Coverage to Medicare:

Contact Social Security: Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B.

Obtain Form CMS-L564 (Request for Employment Information): This form confirms you had employer coverage and prevents penalties.

Submit Form CMS-40B (Application for Enrollment): This form officially enrolls you in Medicare Part B.

Review Supplemental or Advantage Plan Options: Consider a Medigap (Supplemental) plan or a Medicare Advantage plan to cover the 20% not paid by Medicare Part B.

3 Timing is Crucial:

Enroll in Medicare within 8 months of leaving your employer coverage to avoid late enrollment penalties.

What is the Difference Between Supplemental (Medigap) Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans?

Feature	Medicare Supplemental (Medigap)	Medicare Advantage (Part C)
Coverage	Covers the 20% gap in Original Medicare costs and other out-of-pocket expenses.	Combines Parts A, B, and often D; includes extra benefits like dental, vision, and fitness programs.
Provider Flexibility	Nationwide coverage—any doctor or hospital that accepts Medicare.	Network-based coverage—HMO or PPO plans with regional restrictions.
Costs	Higher monthly premiums, but predictable, lower out-of-pocket costs.	Lower premiums, but higher potential out-of-pocket expenses.
Prescription Coverage	Does not include drug coverage (Part D needed separately).	Often includes drug coverage.
Sold By	Offered by private insurance companies like Cigna, UnitedHealthcare, and Aetna.	Also sold by private insurers like Cigna, UnitedHealthcare, and Aetna.

How Much Does Medicare Part B Cost in 2025?

Medicare Part B premiums are based on your income, as shown below:

Individual Income	Joint Income	Monthly Premium
$106,000 or less	$212,000 or less	$185.00
$106,001–$133,000	$212,001–$266,000	$259.00
$133,001–$167,000	$266,001–$334,000	$370.00
$167,001–$200,000	$334,001–$400,000	$480.90
$200,001–$500,000	$400,001–$750,000	$591.90
Over $500,000	Over $750,000	$628.90

Premiums are adjusted annually and may vary slightly.

Have More Questions?

We're here to help you navigate Medicare with ease. Contact us today to schedule a personalized consultation and get the answers you need.

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Common Medicare Questions

Q: Why do I need additional coverage beyond Medicare?
A: Part B only covers 80% of approved costs, leaving you to pay the remaining 20%. Supplemental or Advantage plans help cover this gap, protecting you from high out-of-pocket expenses.

Q: Who provides Supplemental and Advantage plans?
A: Private insurance companies like Cigna, UnitedHealthcare, Aetna, and others sell these plans, regulated by Medicare.

Q: What happens if I don't enroll in Medicare on time?
A: You may face penalties for late enrollment in Part B or Part D.