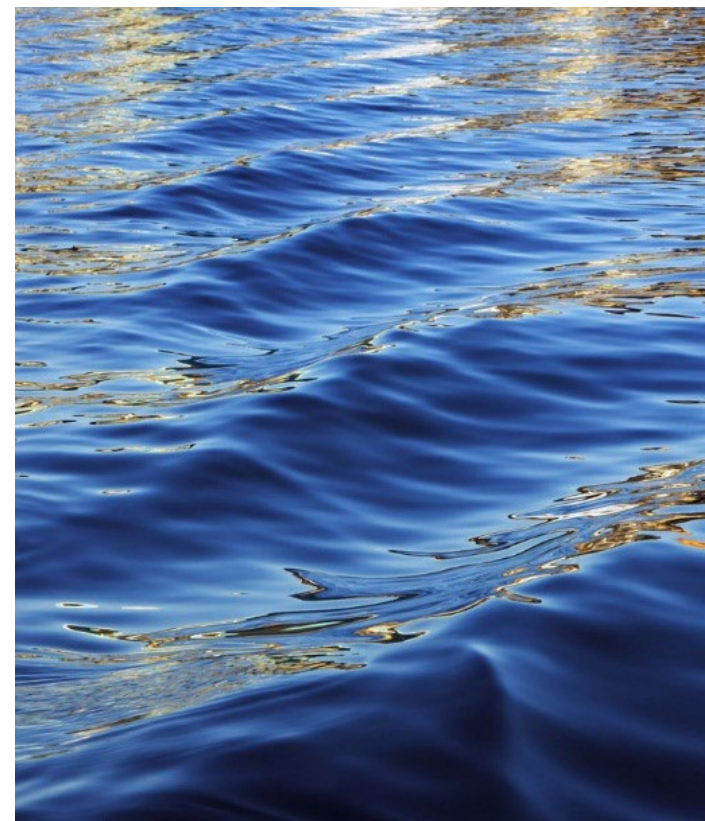


Medicare 101



Who is eligible for Medicare?

- Age 65 and older
- Under age 65 and disabled
 - 24 month waiting period
 - No waiting period if diagnosed with ESRD or ALS
- Must be a US citizen or legal permanent resident
 - Must be a legal permanent resident for 5 continuous years

The four parts of Medicare



Part A
Hospital
Insurance



Part B
Medical
Insurance



Part D
Prescription
Drug
Coverage

OR



Part C
Medicare
Advantage
Plans

Part A

(hospital insurance)

Does part A have a premium?

Most people get Part A premium-free if:

- You or your spouse pay into Medicare/FICA taxes for at least 40 or more quarters during your lifetime

If you paid into Medicare less than 40 quarters:

- In 2024 you may pay \$278 to \$505 per month to get part A

2024 Benefits

Part A

(hospital insurance)

| You Pay | | You Pay | |
|--|---------------|------------------|--|
| Deductible <i>(per occurrence)</i> | \$1,632 | Hospice Care | Limited cost sharing for outpatient drugs and inpatient respite care |
| Inpatient Coinsurance <i>Days 0 – 60</i> | \$0 | Blood | You pay for first 3 pints |
| Inpatient Coinsurance <i>Days 61 - 90</i> | \$408 per day | | |
| Inpatient Coinsurance <i>Days 91- 150</i> | \$816 per day | | |
| Inpatient Coinsurance <i>Days 150 +</i> | All Costs | | |
| Skilled Nursing Facility Care <i>Days 1 – 20 (starts after 3-day hospital stay)</i> | \$0 | Home Health Care | Nothing for services and 20% of approved durable medical equipment |
| Skilled Nursing Facility Care <i>Days 21 - 100</i> | \$240 per day | | |
| Skilled Nursing Facility Care <i>Days 101 +</i> | All Costs | | |

Part B

(medical insurance)

Does part B have a premium?

In 2024 most people will pay the standard premium of \$174.70 per month

- People with higher incomes pay more (\$244.60 - \$590.00)

Social Security will notify you if you have to pay more or less

- The amount may change depending on your yearly income

If you don't enroll in Part B when eligible your premium will increase 10% for each 12-month period.

You may delay part B enrollment, penalty free, if you have 'creditable' employer coverage.

Part B

(medical insurance)

2024 Benefits

- Doctor visits
- Preventative services
- Outpatient hospital services
- Ambulance services
- Durable medical equipment & supplies
- Tests, labs, x-rays, etc.

| You Pay | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Deductible (annually) | \$240 |
| Coinsurance (after deductible) | 20% of the allowable Medicare rate |
| Part B Excess (possible) | 15% over the allowed amount |

Parts A & B

(enrollment)

When should I enroll?

If you're turning 65, please contact Social Security
(ideally 3 months before your 65th birthday)

- Online: www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/
- Call (800) 772-1213
- Visit a local SSA office

What Are They?

Medigaps

- Also referred to as 'Medicare Supplements'
- Sold by private insurance companies
- Helps pay for "gaps" in Medicare A & B (deductible, coinsurance & copayments)

Things to consider

- Benefits are nationally 'standardized' and designated by letters A - N
- Does not include prescription benefits
- Once you buy one, it's yours to keep as long as you pay the premium
- Freedom to choose any doctor or hospital as long as they agree to bill Medicare

Medigaps

| Basic benefits | A | B | D | G** | K | L | M | N | C * | F *** |
|--|---|---|-----|-----|---------|---------|-----|------|-----|-------|
| Part A: Hospital coinsurance (plus costs up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits end) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Part A: Hospice care coinsurance or copay | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 50% | 75% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Part B: Coinsurance or copay | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 50% | 75% | ✓ | ✓*** | ✓ | ✓ |
| Medicare preventive care Part B coinsurance | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Parts A & B: Blood (first 3 pints) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 50% | 75% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Additional benefits | A | B | D | G** | K | L | M | N | C * | F*** |
| Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance | | | ✓ | ✓ | 50% | 75% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Part A deductible: \$1,632 | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 50% | 75% | 50% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Part B deductible: \$240 | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Part B excess charges | | | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ |
| Foreign travel emergency (lifetime limit of \$50,000) | | | 80% | 80% | | | 80% | 80% | 80% | 80% |
| Out-of-pocket yearly limit** | | | | | \$7,060 | \$3,530 | | | | |

**Note: Only applicants' first eligible for Medicare before 2020 can buy/keep Plans C, F, and high-deductible Plan F. Medigap Plans C and F are no longer available to people new to Medicare as of Jan. 1, 2020. If you were eligible for Medicare before Jan. 1, 2020, but not yet enrolled, you might be able to still buy a Plan C, F or high-deductible Plan F.*

***Note: Plans F and G offer a high-deductible plan. You pay for Medicare-covered costs up to the deductible amount (\$2,800 in 2024) before your plan pays anything.*

****Note: Plan N pays 100% of the Part B coinsurance except up to \$20 copays for some office visits and up to \$50 copays for emergency room visits (if the hospital admits you, the plan waives your emergency room copays).*

Enrollment Periods

Must have Parts A and B

People under age 65 have limited choices

- Not all Carriers offer plans for people under 65 and are not guarantee issue

You are guaranteed to get a Medigap without medical underwriting year-round during:

- The 6-month period starting the first day of the month you turn 65
- The 6-month period after you enrolling in Part B
- When switching from one like-plan to another Medigap plan
- When leaving an employer/retiree plan with 'creditable' coverage

Part D

Coverage available through:

- Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan (MAPD)
- Stand-alone Part D plan (works with a Medigap)

'Formulary'

A list of covered drugs & their corresponding tier

'Tiers'

Numerical categories based on drug price

(prescription drug insurance)

| Example | | |
|---------|------------------------|------|
| Tier 1 | Preferred Generic | \$4 |
| Tier 2 | Generic | \$9 |
| Tier 3 | Preferred Brand | \$45 |
| Tier 4 | Brand | \$95 |
| Tier 5 | Specialty & Injectable | 33% |

Example: Atorvastatin (a Tier 1 on formulary) = \$4/month

Part D

(prescription drug insurance)

Eligibility

- Available for all people with Part A and/or B
- Enrollment is not automatic for most people
- Not electing Part D may result in a monthly lifetime late enrollment penalty unless you have 'creditable' prescription drug coverage through another health plan

Costs

- You may pay a monthly premium, sometimes a deductible, and a portion of the drug costs
- Plans must cover a range of drugs in each therapeutic category including brand-name and generic drugs. Formularies vary by plan. Check the plan's formulary carefully.

Enrollment Periods

- Initial Enrollment Period (**IEP/ICEP**): New to Medicare
- Annual Enrollment Period (**AEP**): Oct 15th – Dec 7th (coverage starts Jan 1st)
- Open Enrollment Period (**OEP**): Jan 1st – March 31st
- Special Enrollment Period (**SEP**): Granted for things such as moving, leaving employer coverage, or gaining or losing Medicaid (DSHS) or LIS (extra help)

Part C

(Medicare Advantage plans)

What are they?

- Another way to get Medicare coverage
- Medicare contracts private insurance companies to provide the services
- Provides all the same rights and protections as Original Medicare (A & B)
- Includes A, B and most of the time D in one plan
- Many include extras like fitness programs, dental, vision, and hearing aids
- Most plans require clients to use a network of providers
- Includes 'maximum out of pocket' limits to protect you from catastrophic events

Part C

(Medicare Advantage plans)

Eligibility

Must be enrolled in Parts A and B

Must continue to pay Part B premium

Must live in the plan's services area

Not available in all counties

| Plan Type | Definition | In Network Only | Out of Network Benefits |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-------------------------|
| HMO | Health Maintenance Organization | ✓ | |
| HMO-POS | Health Maintenance Organization – Point of Service | | ✓ |
| PPO | Preferred Provider Organization | | ✓ |
| SNP | Special Needs Plan | ✓ | |

Part C

(Medicare Advantage plans)

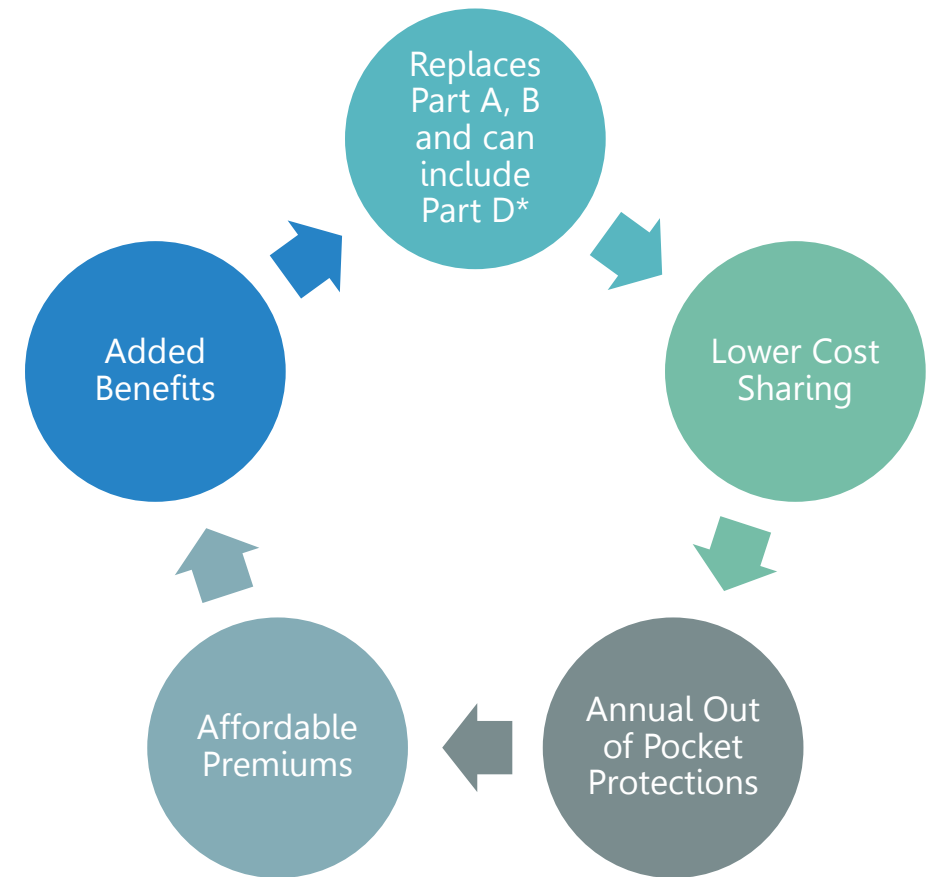
Things to consider

May require referrals to see specialists

May require you to pay some of the cost

- Co-Pays
- Co-Insurance
- Deductibles

Not all providers are included in the plan's network

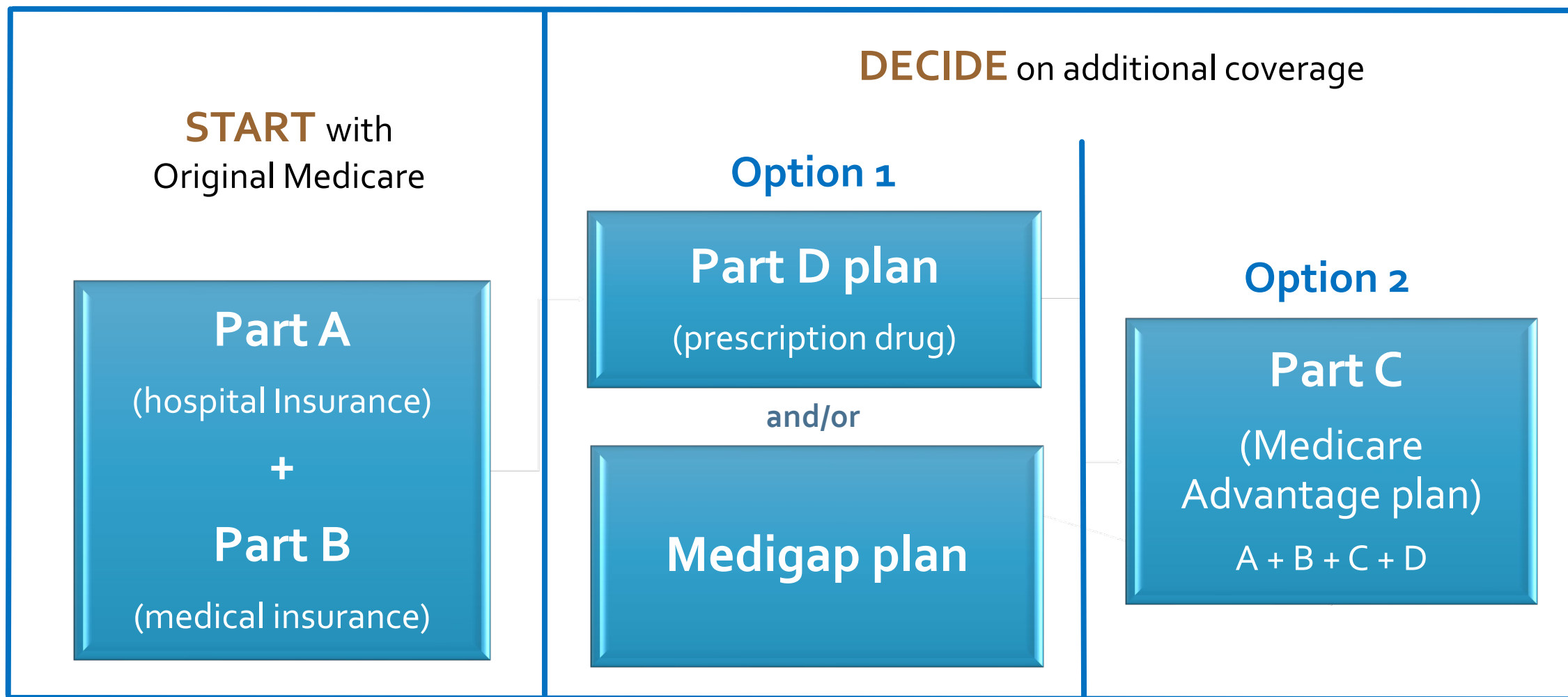


**Not all Medicare Advantage plans are available in all counties and not available plans include Part D Prescription Drug Coverage. Enrollees ought to verify coverage prior to enrollment.*

Enrollment Periods

- Initial Enrollment Period (**IEP/ICEP**): New to Medicare
- Annual Enrollment Period (**AEP**): Oct 15th – Dec 7th (coverage starts Jan 1st)
- Open Enrollment Period (**OEP**): Jan 1st – March 31st
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Choose your path



How do I decide?

- How much can I afford?
 - Do I travel frequently?
- Will my Doctor/Hospital accept the plan?
 - Are my prescriptions be covered?
 - Do I need referrals to see my specialists?
 - How often do I use medical services?
- Do I have any upcoming medical procedures/expenses?

Financial Assistance Programs

Medicare Savings Program
(Medicaid)

Low Income Subsidy
(Extra Help)

Prescription Discount Cards



Medicare Savings Program 'Medicaid'

(help with Medicare costs)

| Income & Resource Limits effective: 12/31/2023 | | | | | |
|--|---|------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Type of Medicare Program | | | Max monthly income (individual) | Max monthly income (couple) | |
| Program | 1 | QMB | \$1,235 | \$1663 | |
| Program | 2 | SLMB | \$1,478 | \$1992 | |
| Program | 3 | QI-1 | \$1,660 | \$2,239 | |
| Program | 4 | QDWI | \$4,945 | \$6,659 | |

Assets allowed (programs 1-3): Individual \$9,090– Couple \$13,630

Assets allowed for QDWI: Individual \$4,000 – Couple \$6,000

Low Income Subsidy 'Extra Help'

(help with prescription costs)

| 2024 Annual income limit (individual) | 2024 Annual income limit (married couple) | Helps Pay Your: |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| > \$21,870 | > \$29,580 | Part D premium, deductible and co-insurance Extra Help works with stand-alone plans & Medicare Advantage Plans! |

Asset/Resource Limits without burial exclusion: Individual > \$15,160 | Married Couple > \$30,240*

Asset/Resource Limits without burial exclusion: \$16,660 | Married Couple > \$33,240*

Resources **don't include your home, car, household items, burial plot, up to \$1,500 for burial expenses (per person), or life insurance policies.*

Apply if you think you're eligible!

Medicare Savings Program/Medicaid:

- Online: www.washingtonconnection.org
- At a local Community Services Office (CSO)
- Call: (800) 562-3022 ext: 16129

Low Income Subsidy/Extra Help:

- Online: www.ssa.gov/medicare/prescriptionhelp/
- At a local Social Security Office
- Call: (800) 772-1213

Prescription Drug Discount Cards

Good RX

- www.goodrx.com
- Collects and compare prices for every FDA-approved drug at more than 70,000 US pharmacies
- Finds free coupons & discount cards
- Shows the lowest price at each pharmacy

Single Care RX

- www.singlecare.com
- Collects and compare prices for every FDA-approved drug at more than 10,000 US pharmacies
- Finds free coupons & discount cards
- Shows the lowest price at each pharmacy

RX Cut

- www.rxcut.com
- Pharmacy savings program
- Get a free discount card
- Search for drug prices



Thank You!
Questions?