Medicare 101

MAG
AGING & FAMILY SERVICES

SHIP
State Health Insurance Assistance Program

CMS
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Our Program(s)

SHIP
State Health Insurance Assistance Program

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol

Preventing Medicare Fraud

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MEDICARE CAN BE CONFUSING

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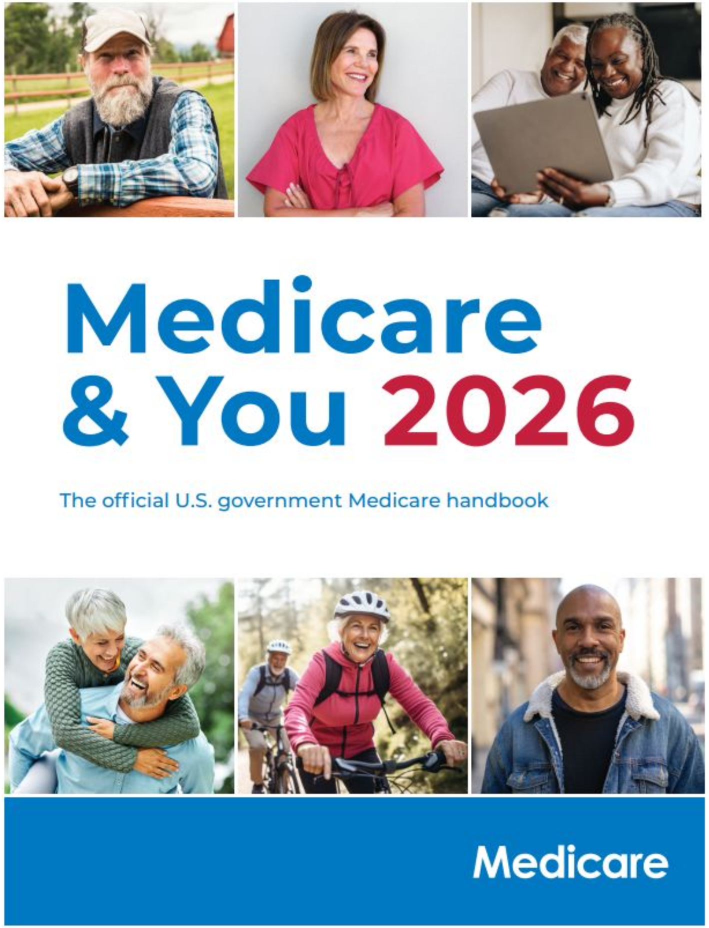
WHAT IS MEDICARE?

Health insurance for people

- 65 and older
- Under 65 with certain conditions:
  - Receiving Social Security Disability benefits for 24 months
  - ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also called Lou Gehrig's disease)
  - End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

NOTE: To get Medicare you must be a U.S. citizen or be a Lawful Permanent Resident in the U.S for 5 continuous years.*

*Please make sure to review all current year policies



What are the parts of Medicare?

MEDICARE PART A - HOSPITAL INSURANCE

Typically premium-free based on personal or spouse work credits. Check your status with Social Security.

Helps cover

- **<u>Inpatient</u>** care in hospitals
- Skilled nursing facility (SNF) care (rehab, not Long Term Care)
- Hospice care
- Home health care

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MEDICARE PART B - MEDICAL INSURANCE

Monthly premium of $202.90 *(*in 2026)*

Helps cover

- Medically necessary services or supplies from doctors and health care providers
  - Outpatient care
  - Home health care
  - Durable medical equipment (DME) (wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds)
- Preventive services (screenings, shots, yearly “Wellness” visits)

MEDICARE PART D - PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

Helps cover

- Cost of prescription drugs

MEDICARE COVERAGE OPTIONS

You can pick one of two options to receive Medicare:

Original Medicare

Part A - Hospital Insurance

Part B - Medical Insurance

You can add +

Part D - Prescription Drug Coverage

Medigap/ Supplemental Coverage

Medicare Advantage (Part C)

Includes:
Part A
Part B

Most plans also include:
Part D
Extra coverage benefits

Original Medicare

ORIGINAL MEDICARE

You can add:

- ☐ Part A
- ☐ Part B
- ☐ Part D
- ☐ Supplemental Coverage

- Includes Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Medical)
- Can see any doctor or hospital in the country that accepts Medicare.
- Medicare Part B pays 80% and you are responsible for 20%.
- To help pay your out-of-pocket costs in Original Medicare (ex: 20% coinsurance), you can also buy supplemental coverage* (Medigap)
- Sign up for a Part D (prescription drug) plan.

*Some examples include coverage from a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy, or coverage from a former employer or union.

ORIGINAL MEDICARE DOES NOT COVER

Routine Dental Care	Example: cleanings, fillings, dentures
Routine Vision	Example: exams for prescription glasses
Routine Hearing	Example: hearing aids
Long-Term Care	
Cosmetic Surgery	

Note that Medigap/ Medicare Supplement plans usually do not cover these either

Medicare Supplement/ Medigap

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE (MEDIGAP) POLICIES

☐ Part A

☐ Part B

You can add:

☐ Part D

☐ Supplemental Coverage

- Sold by insurance companies
- Fills gaps in Original Medicare coverage
  - Part B 20% coinsurance
  - No copayments, limited deductible
- See any U.S. doctor or hospital who accepts Medicare: no need for referrals

- All plans with same letter
  - Have same coverage
  - Costs are different
- Monthly premiums
  - $130 average* at start (*in 2026**)
  - Costs often rise with age

MEDIGAP PLAN COVERAGE

Benefits	Medigap standardized plans									
	A	B	C	D	F*	G*	K	L	M	N
Medicare Part A coinsurance and hospital costs (up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are used)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Medicare Part B coinsurance or copayment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	100%	100%***
Blood benefit (first 3 pints)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	100%	100%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	100%	100%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance			100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	100%	100%
Part A deductible		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	50%	100%
Part B deductible			100%		100%					
Part B excess charges					100%	100%				
Foreign travel emergency (up to plan limits)			80%	80%	80%	80%			80%	80%
							Out-of-pocket limit in 2026**			
							$8,000	$4,000		

Please refer to your most recent Medicare and You handbook for the fine print on these 2026 plans (p.76).

If a percentage appears, the Medigap plan covers that percentage of the benefit, and you're responsible for the rest.

*You can't buy Plans C & F if you were new to Medicare on or after January 1, 2020.

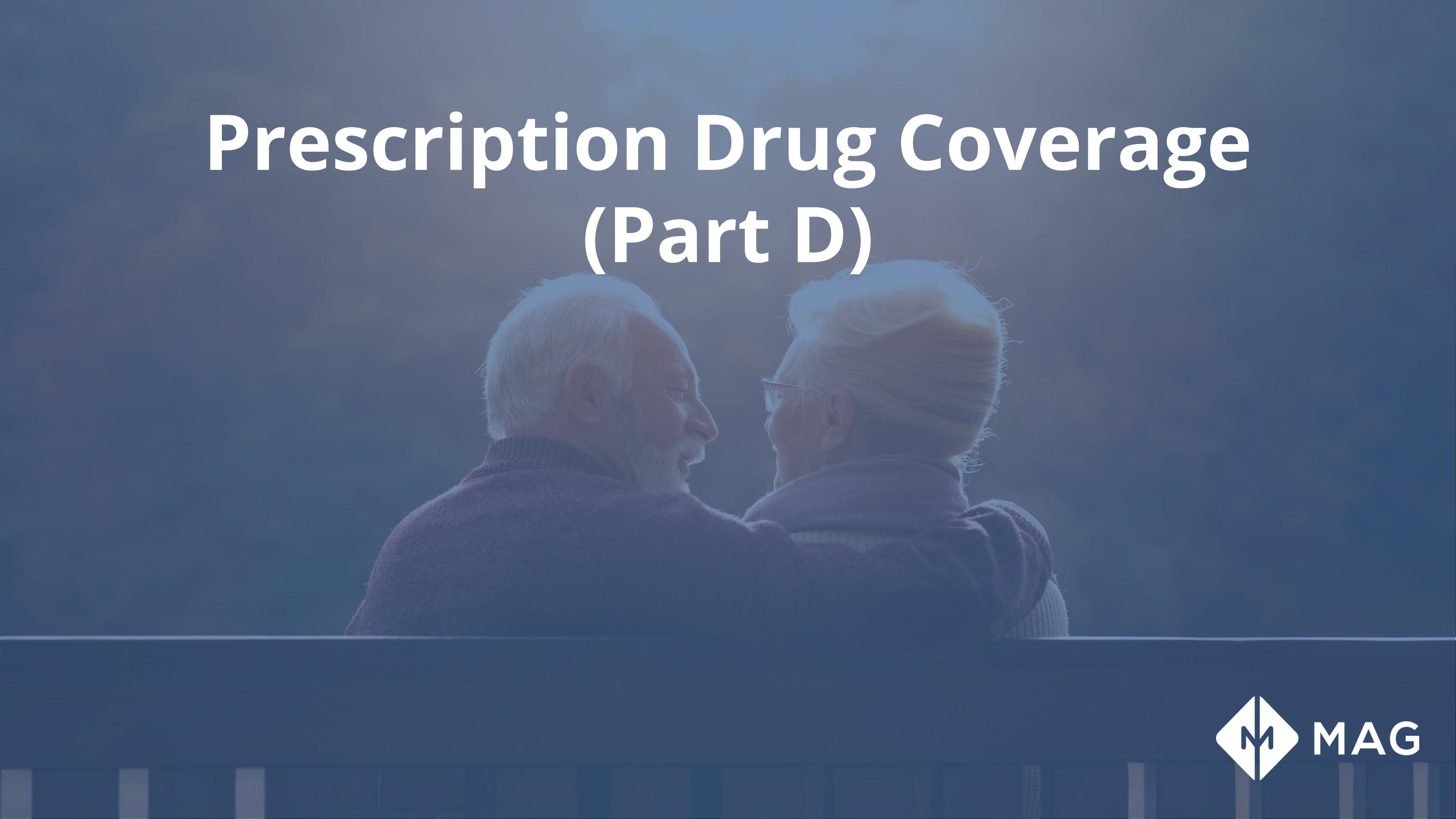
Please consult the* ***current year*** *numbers for changes*

BEST TIME TO BUY A MEDIGAP POLICY?

Medigap Policy

- **Medigap** Open Enrollment Period (OEP) begins the month you're 65 or older (or leave creditable employer coverage) & enrolled in Part B.
  - You have 6 months from the Part B effective date to buy a Medigap policy with guaranteed issue.
  - After this period, you will need to go through underwriting.
- During your Medigap OEP, companies can’t do the following:
  - Refuse to sell you any Medigap policy they offer
  - Make you wait for coverage (there can be a waiting period to get pre-existing conditions covered if you don’t have prior creditable coverage)
  - Charge more because of a pre-existing health problem (you have guaranteed issue)

Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D)



MEDICARE PART D

- Add to Original Medicare or
- Usually included in Medicare Advantage plans

- You must have Medicare Part A **and/or** Part B to join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan
- May pay a lifetime penalty if you join late
- Your out-of-pocket cost may be less if you use a preferred pharmacy
- Plans have formularies (a list of covered drugs)

- If you have **Original Medicare** you will sign up for a separate Part D plan. You will pay a monthly premium and then copays when you pick up your prescriptions.
- If you have a **Medicare Advantage** plan your prescriptions will most likely be included in that plan and you will have copays when you pick up your prescriptions.

Medicare Advantage (or Part C)

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE (PART C)

☐ Part A

☐ Part B

Most plans include:

☐ Part D

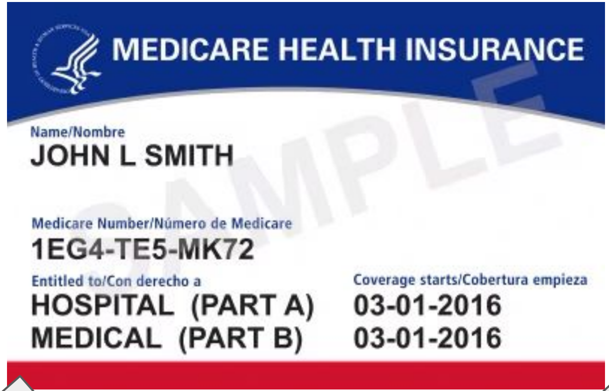
Some plan also include:

× ☐ Extra benefits

- An “all-in-one” alternative to Original Medicare. These “bundled” plans include Part A, Part B, and usually Part D.
- You must stay within a network of doctors and hospitals.
- You pay copays, coinsurance, and deductibles.

- You have max out of pocket limits.
- Plans may offer extra benefits that Original Medicare doesn’t cover like vision, hearing, dental, fitness, grocery, and more.

IN REVIEW: MEDICARE OPTIONS



Option 1
Original Medicare
Can purchase a Supplemental/Medigap Plan and a Medicare Part D Drug Plan

Option 2
Medicare Advantage
Usually includes Part D Prescription Drug Coverage/ other benefits

NOTE: Both options require you to first enroll in both Parts A & B

Medicare Enrollment

Do I have to get Medicare?

Will I have penalties if I don't sign up at 65?

ENROLLING IN MEDICARE

Are you currently receiving Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits at least 4 months before turning 65?

If YES: You will be automatically enrolled in Part A and Part B. You will receive your Medicare card and information explaining how to opt out (if desired) in the mail a few months before you turn 65.

If NO: You are not automatically enrolled in Part A and Part B and will need to enroll in Medicare with Social Security 3 months before you turn 65.

- Apply online at https://www.ssa.gov/medicare or
- Call 1-800-772-1213
  TTY: 1-800-325-0778
- Provo office: (866) 366-9549
  (can set in-person appointment)

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ACTIVELY WORKING WITH A GROUP HEALTH PLAN

If you are actively working and have Group Health Insurance (“creditable coverage”):

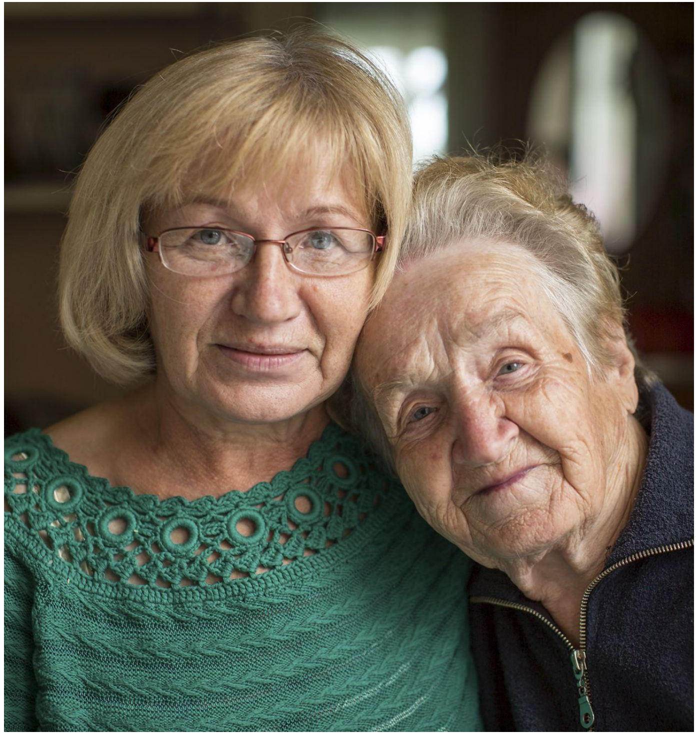
- You may want to delay enrolling in Medicare if you have creditable coverage through an employer (check your situation at this link and ask an advisor)
  - https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/medicare-basics/working-past-65
- No penalty for Part B, if you enroll within 8 months of losing creditable coverage or employment*
  - *Make sure you verify how your coverage works with Medicare
- No penalty for Part D if you get it within 63 days of losing drug coverage

NOT ACTIVELY WORKING OR NOT INSURED

If you are <u>not</u> actively working and do <u>not</u> have a Group Health Plan ("creditable coverage"):

<u>Delaying Medicare may mean:</u>

- Late enrollment penalty for Part A if you need to pay for Part A & do not get it when you are eligible.
- Lifetime <u>late enrollment penalties</u> for Part B & D
- Paying for your health care out-of-pocket or a lapse in coverage.
- Cannot enroll until the next General Enrollment Period (January 1–March 31)
    - Coverage starts the month following enrollment.



INITIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD (IEP)

7-Month Period

3 months before the month you turn 65

3 months after the month you turn 65

1	2	3	65	1	2	3
Coverage begins 1st day of the month you turn 65			1st of next month	Coverage begins 1st day of the month after you enroll		

INITIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD (IEP)

During your IEP you can enroll/join

- ✔ Part A
- ✔ Part B

(Once you have Part A and Part B you can enroll in)

- ✔ Medicare Advantage <u>or</u>
- ✔ Medigap <u>and</u>
- ✔ Part D (must have Part A and/or Part B)

GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD (GEP)

Starts January 1

Ends March 31

Coverage begins next month

3-Month period each year during which anyone who did not enroll in Part A and/or B can enroll/join:

- ✔ Part A (if you have to buy it)
- ✔ Part B
- ✔ Once you add A ***and/or*** B you can also join a Part D

Late enrollment penalties: If you miss your IEP & are late to sign up for A/B and/ or D

ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD (OEP) FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

Starts Oct 15

Ends Dec 7

Coverage begins January 1

Period each year during which you can join, switch, or drop your:

- ✔ MA Plan
- ✔ Part D Plan, or
- ✔ Return to Original Medicare

This is a time to review health and drug plan choices.

*From Jan 1 - March 31, there is a one-time opportunity to make a change in your Medicare Advantage plan if you are not happy with your selection here.

SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS (SEPS)

SEP examples:

- Loss of Employer Coverage or Retirement
- Moving
- Plan Changes
- Long-Term Care
- Dual Eligibility for Medicaid and Medicare
- Other Exceptional Circumstances

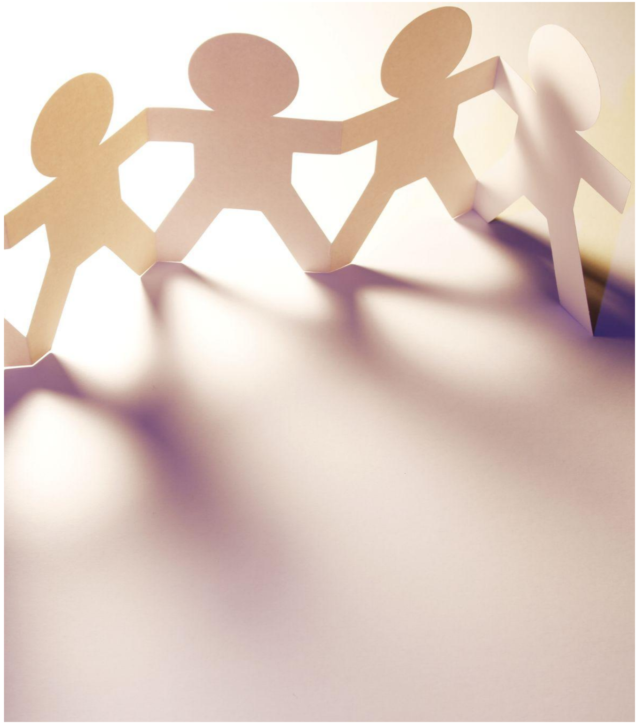
*Please talk with an advisor and read more here: https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/get-more-coverage/joining-a-plan/special-enrollment-periods

LIMITED INCOME

Resources

HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH LIMITED INCOME AND RESOURCES

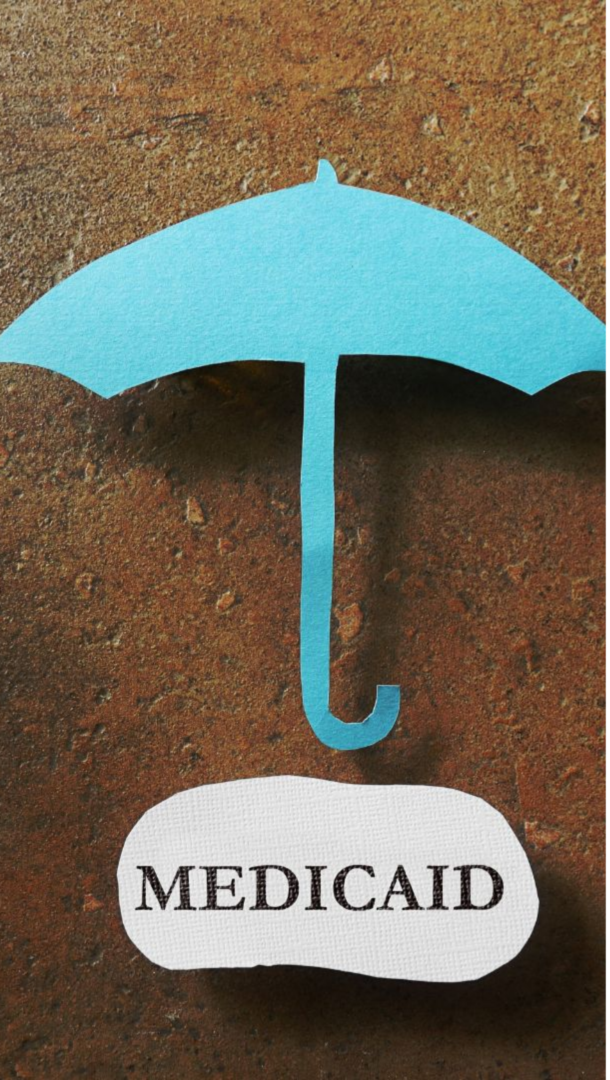
- **Extra Help**
  - Help paying Part D prescription drug costs
- **Medicare Savings Programs**
  - Help from your state paying Medicare costs, including Medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance
- **Medicaid**
  - Federal/ state health insurance program for people with very limited income/resources



MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS IN 2026*

Medicare Savings Program	Individual Monthly Income Limits	Married Couple Monthly Income Limits	Helps Pay Your
Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)	$1,350	$1,824	Part A and Part B premiums, and other cost-sharing (like deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments) Extra Help w/Prescriptions
Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)	$1,616	$2,184	Part B premiums (must have both Part A & B) Extra Help w/Prescriptions
Qualifying Individual (QI)	$1,816	$2,455	Part B premiums (must have both Part A & B) Extra Help w/Prescriptions
Qualified Disabled & Working Individual (QDWI)	$5,405	$7,299	See Medicare.gov

Resource limits for QMB, SLMB, and QI are $9,950 for an individual and $14,910 for a married couple.
Resource limits for QDWI are $4,000 for an individual and $6,000 for a married couple.
Please always consult the **current year income limits for updated numbers*



WHAT IS MEDICAID?

- Joint federal and state program
- Helps pay health care costs for people with limited income and resources
- May cover limited or non-Medicare eligible services, like nursing home care, personal care, and home- and community-based services
- Medicaid Aged, Blind or Disabled Programs: for individuals aged 65 years or older, blind or disabled.
    - 2026* Household Maximum Income Level (Per Month): 1 person < $1,330 or 2 person household < $1,804 *(*please consult the current year numbers for annual changes)*
- Some qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid
- Enroll at Medicaid.utah.gov/apply-medicaid or 1-801-538-6155

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MEDICARE & MARKETPLACE

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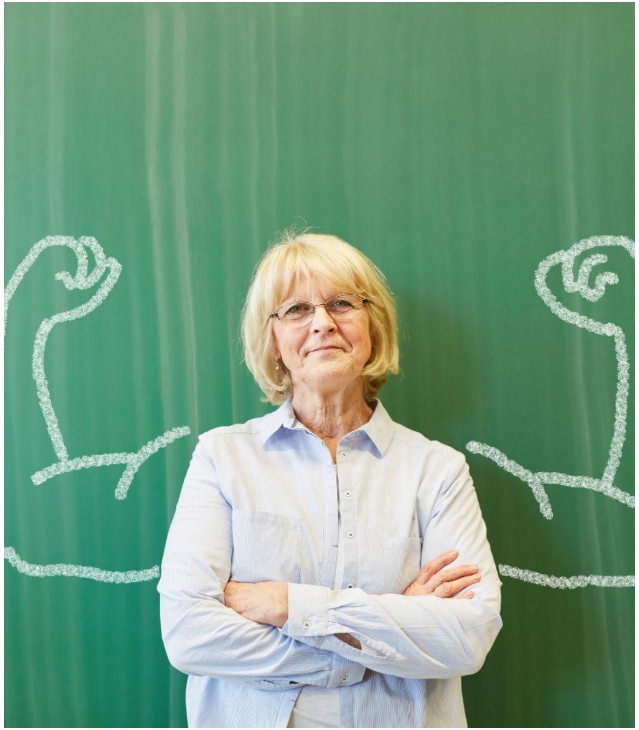
CHOOSING MARKETPLACE COVERAGE INSTEAD OF MEDICARE

You can choose Marketplace coverage* instead of Medicare if you:

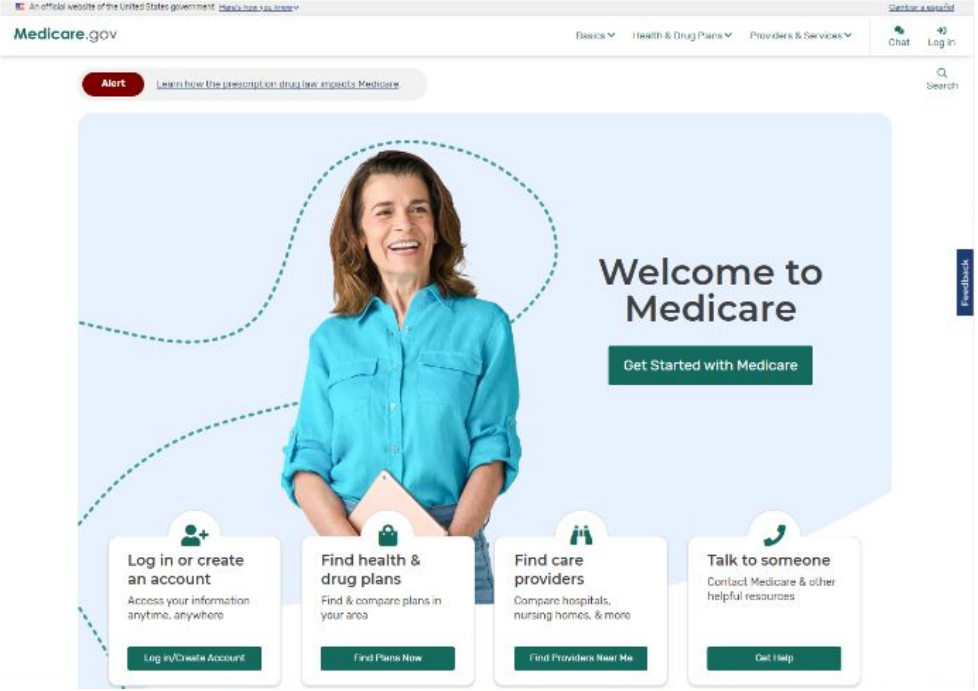
- Must pay a Part A premium.
  - Can drop your Part A and Part B coverage and get a Marketplace plan instead.
- Are eligible for Medicare but haven't enrolled yet because you:
  - Would need to pay a Part A premium
  - Have a Medicare qualifying medical condition, like ESRD, but haven't yet applied for Medicare coverage
  - Are in your 24-month disability (SSDI) waiting period
- *See: https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/other-paths/medicare-marketplace

MEDICARE FOR DISABILITIES AND THE MARKETPLACE

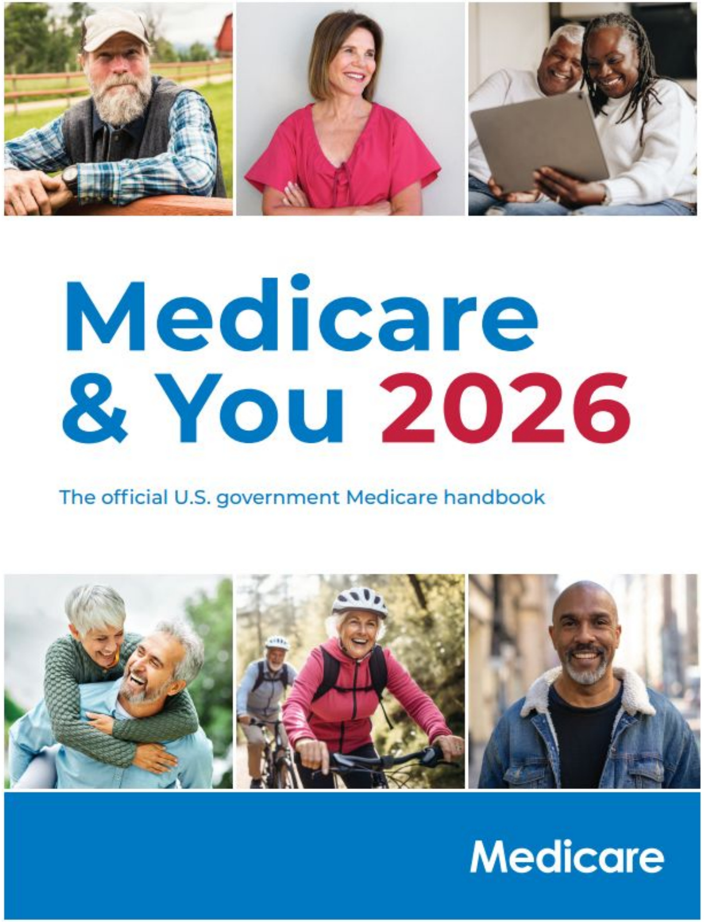
- You may qualify for Medicare based on a disability.
- You must be entitled to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits for 24 months
    - On the 25th month, you're automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B
- If you're getting SSDI, you can get a Marketplace plan to cover you during your 24-month waiting period
- You may qualify for premium tax credits and reduced cost sharing until your Medicare coverage starts



RESOURCES



*Please always consult the current year version



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RESOURCES

MAG AGING & FAMILY SERVICES
www.magutah.gov/aging
Access our online Senior Help Guide & more!

Senior Help Line
1-801-229-3804
7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday
(For Utah County, Wasatch County and Summit County in Utah)

LEARN MORE
www.magutah.gov/education
Sign up for one of our helpful classes on topics like Caregiving, Dementia, and more!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

MEDICARE - 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
www.medicare.gov
Learn about Medicare Savings Programs HERE
Learn about Extra Help with drug costs HERE

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
www.ssa.gov

NONPROFIT OPTIONAL RESOURCES*
www.mymedicarematters.org
https://benefitscheckup.org/
www.medicareinteractive.org
**to the best of our knowledge in 2026*

We can help you navigate Medicare!

Phone call, video, & in-person appointments available.
Call or book online:
https://magutah.gov/medicare
Please review these slides and other information here.

SHIP Medicare Counselor
801-229-3819

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Questions?