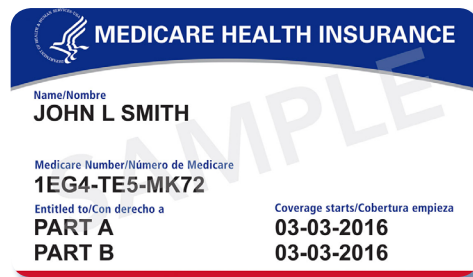


# 2019 Medicare Benefits and Costs



*Learn more about...*

- Who is eligible for Medicare
- 2019 Medicare Part A and B premiums
- When to enroll in Medicare
- Medicare Part A and B benefits and costs
- How Medicare coordinates with employer health insurance

**Need information about Medicare?**  
Call Center for Health Care Rights at  
**800-824-0780** or visit [www.healthcarerights.org](http://www.healthcarerights.org)

The Center for Health Care Rights (CHCR) is a California non-profit organization that provides free information and help with Medicare.

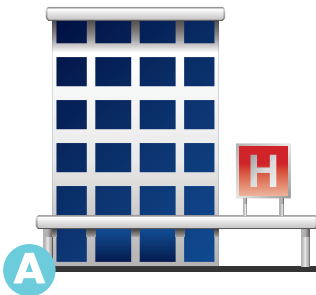
# What is Medicare?

Medicare is a national health insurance program for people age 65 and older and people under the age of 65 who have a permanent disability.

## What does Medicare cover?

Medicare has 3 parts:

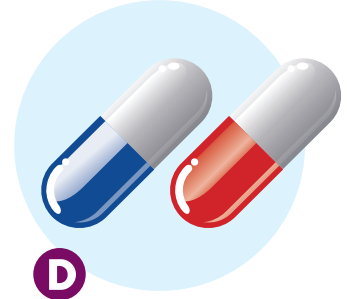
**Part A Hospital Insurance** pays for hospital services, skilled nursing facility services, hospice and home health.



**Part B Medical Insurance** pays for doctor services and other outpatient medical care.



**Part D Prescription Drug Benefit** pays for prescription drugs.



### Medicare does not cover:

- ▶ Dental care
- ▶ Hearing aids
- ▶ Eyeglasses
- ▶ Personal care services at home or in a nursing home

## Who is eligible for Medicare?

- ▶ **People age 65 or older who:**
  - ▶ Are eligible for Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits
  - ▶ You may also be eligible for Medicare and Social Security retirement benefits as a married or divorced spouse.
- ▶ **People under the age of 65 who:**
  - ▶ Have received Social Security Disability benefits for 2 years; or
  - ▶ Are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits and have ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) or End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD).

## When do I enroll in Medicare ?

### Initial Enrollment Period – When you turn 65

This is a 7 month period. It starts 3 months before your birthday month and ends 3 months later.



Example: John is turning 65 in June 2019. His Initial Enrollment Period starts March 1, 2019 and ends September 30, 2019.

### General Enrollment Period – January 1 to March 31 of every year

If you missed your Initial Enrollment Period, you can enroll during this period. Your Medicare benefits will be effective July 1 of the same year.

### Special Enrollment Period – When your employer insurance stops

If you or your spouse are working and have employer group health plan coverage, you may be able to delay your Medicare enrollment. When your employer health plan coverage ends, you will have an **8-month special enrollment period** to enroll in Medicare with no late enrollment penalty.

You qualify for a special enrollment period if:

- ▶ You are age 65 or older and your employer has at least 20 employees;
- ▶ You are under the age of 65 and your employer has 100 or more employees.

If you delay your Medicare enrollment, your employer health plan will continue as your primary health insurance coverage.

If you enroll in Medicare before your employer health plan coverage ends, Medicare will be your secondary health insurance.

## How do I apply for Medicare?

- ▶ Apply online at the Social Security website [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)
- ▶ Call the Social Security Administration at **1-800-772-1213**.
- ▶ Visit a local Social Security office.

## 2019 Medicare Part A premiums, benefits and copayments

### 2019 Medicare Part A premiums

Most people do not pay for Medicare Part A. If you have earned 40 or more work quarters, you pay no premium for Medicare Part A hospital insurance. You earn work quarters when you (or your spouse) has paid Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes for at least 10 years (or 40 quarters) while working.

Number of earned work quarters	Part A premium cost
You have less than 30 earned work quarters	\$437 per month
You have 30-39 earned work quarters	\$240 per month

If you do not have enough earned work quarters, you can purchase Medicare Part A if you are:

- ▶ Age 65 or older;
- ▶ A legal resident or U.S. citizen; and
- ▶ You have lived in the U.S. for at least 5 years.

### Medicare Part A benefits

Medicare coverage of hospital and skilled nursing facility days is based on a **benefit period**.

### What is a benefit period?

- ▶ A benefit period begins when you are admitted to the hospital;
- ▶ The benefit period ends when you have been out of the hospital or have not received skilled care in a skilled nursing facility for 60 consecutive days.

## Hospital Care

Medicare covers up to 90 days of hospital care in a benefit period. If you use all 90 days, you can use your lifetime reserve days. You have 60 lifetime reserve days to use over your lifetime.

## Skilled Care in a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)

Medicare pays for up to 100 days of skilled nursing care in a benefit period if you meet all of these requirements:

- ▶ You go to a Medicare contracted skilled nursing facility after a 3 day inpatient hospital stay;
- ▶ Your doctor orders your skilled nursing facility stay;
- ▶ You need skilled nursing and/or therapy (physical, speech, occupational) services at least 5 days a week.

Most people who use the Medicare SNF benefit are receiving rehabilitation services.

## Home Health Care

Medicare pays for home health if you meet all of these requirements:

- ▶ Due to an illness or injury, you have difficulty leaving your home.
- ▶ You need skilled nursing or therapy (physical, speech, occupational) on a part time basis.
- ▶ The home health provider contracts with Medicare.
- ▶ Your doctor has prescribed Medicare home health services for you.

## Hospice Care

This Medicare benefit is for people who have a life threatening illness and are not expected to live longer than 6 months. The purpose of hospice care is to provide comfort and manage pain.

Medicare patients who participate in a hospice program decide not to receive treatment for their life threatening illness.

Medicare hospice services include: treatment by doctors and nurses, medical equipment, physical, speech and occupational therapy, respite care and grief counseling.

## 2019 Medicare Part A Copayments and Deductibles

Part A Benefits	Time Frame	Your Out-of-Pocket Cost
Hospital Benefit	Days 1 – 60	\$1,364 hospital deductible
	Days 61 – 90	\$341 per day
	Days 91 – 150 <b>Lifetime reserve days</b>	\$682 per day
Skilled Nursing Facility	Days 1 – 20	\$0
	Days 21 – 100	\$170.50 per day

## 2019 Medicare Part B medical insurance premiums, benefits and copayments

### 2019 Standard Part B premium: **\$135.50** per month

You pay a higher Part B monthly premium if you are single with an annual income of \$85,000 or more. If you are married, you pay a higher Part B premium if you have a joint income of \$170,000 or more.

### Part B late enrollment penalty

Medicare may charge you a monthly penalty if you do not sign up for Part B at the right time. The penalty is 10% for every year that you delayed your enrollment into Part B. You pay the penalty for the rest of your life.

### 2019 Medicare Part B benefits include:

- ▶ Physician services
- ▶ Ambulance services
- ▶ Mental health services
- ▶ Preventive care (example – flu shot)
- ▶ Outpatient therapy (physical, speech and occupational)
- ▶ X-rays and lab tests
- ▶ Diagnostic tests (example – MRI, CAT scan)
- ▶ Medical equipment (example – wheelchair, walker, hospital bed)

## 2019 Medicare Part B copayments

\$185 annual Part B deductible

20% copayment

## Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage

Medicare Part D pays for prescription drugs.

There are **2 types of Medicare Part D drug plans**:

- ▶ **Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs)** only provide prescription benefits;
- ▶ **Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans** provide prescription drug and medical care services. These plans provide all your Medicare A, B and D benefits.

For more information about Medicare Part D plans, see our 2019 Medicare Part D Drug Coverage factsheet.

**Need information about Medicare?**

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at 800-824-0780**

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LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

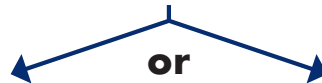
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# How do I close gaps in Medicare coverage?

Medicare does not cover 100% of your health expenses. It does not pay for dental care or custodial care at home or in a nursing home. Medicare also requires you to pay Medicare Part A and Part B copayments and deductibles. If you only have Medicare, consider the following insurance options:

## Medicare Coverage Choices At-A-Glance

### Step 1: Decide how you want to get your health care

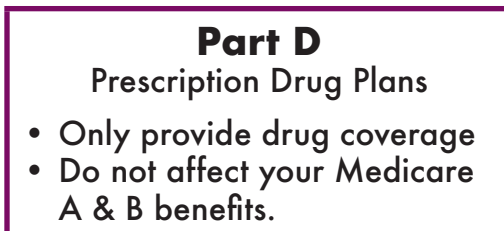


**I want Original Medicare so that I can choose my Medicare doctors**

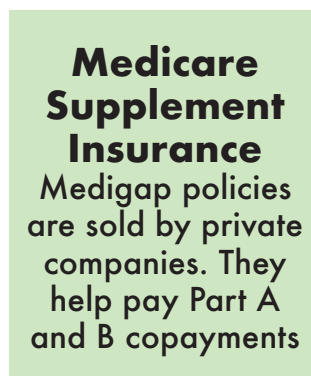
**Original Medicare**



### Step 2: Enroll in a Part D plan if you want drug coverage



### Step 3: Get insurance that will cover your Part A and B copayments



**I want a Medicare Advantage plan to reduce my out of pocket costs and get added benefits like dental and vision services**

**Medicare Advantage Plans (HMO or PPO)**



- Managed care plans provide Medicare Part A, B and D benefits.
- **Medicare Advantage HMOs**  
You assign your Medicare benefits to the plan and agree to use only Medicare Advantage plan providers.
- **Medicare Advantage PPOs**  
You can see out of network medical providers but your out of pocket costs will be higher.