



The Ohio Department of Insurance (ODI) is pleased to share this Medicare 101 booklet. It is important to evaluate your coverage choices each year and this booklet can provide assistance in understanding the benefits and options available to you.

In the following pages you will find an overview of information about Medicare Part A (inpatient coverage), Medicare Part B (outpatient coverage), Medicare Supplements (Medigap), Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage and predatory sales practices.

We are confident this information will serve as a helpful resource as you consider available Medicare options. Should you have questions or require further assistance, please contact ODI's Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) at 1-800-686-1578.



**Ohio Senior Health Insurance  
Information Program**

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800-686-1578  
[insurance.ohio.gov](http://insurance.ohio.gov)

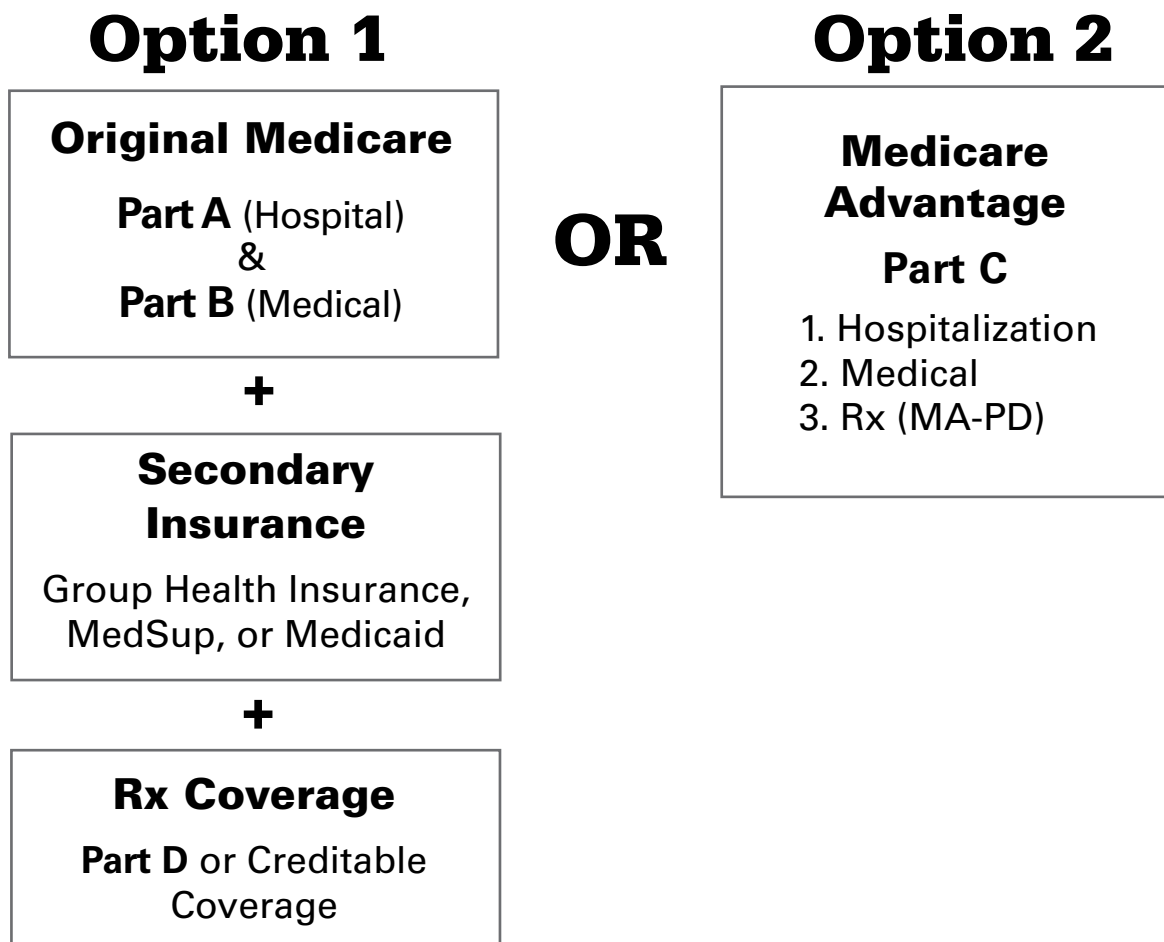
# What is Medicare?

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Medicare is a federal health insurance program administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for people who are:

- Age 65 and older.
- Any age and disabled.
- Diagnosed with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD).

Most people get their Medicare health coverage in one of two ways. Your costs vary depending on your plan, coverage and the services you use.



## Medicare Annual Open Enrollment

Each year from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 you can update or switch your Medicare drug plan and/or your Medicare Advantage plan. Your new coverage will begin Jan. 1 of the next year.

# Applying for Medicare

Enrollment is automatic if you get Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits prior to Medicare eligibility. If not, you must apply with Social Security (or Railroad Retirement) during one of the periods described here:

## 7 month Initial Enrollment Period

- 3 months before your 65th birthday.
- The month of your 65th birthday.
- 3 months after your 65th birthday.

## General Enrollment Period

If you don't sign up for Part A and/or Part B when you are first eligible, you can sign up from Jan. 1 - March 31 each year. Your coverage will begin July 1 of that year. You may have to pay a higher Part A and/or Part B premium for late enrollment.

## Special Enrollment Period

If you don't sign up for Part A and/or Part B when you are first eligible because you're covered under a group health plan based on current employment (your own, a spouse's, or a family member's if you're disabled), you can sign up for Part A and/or Part B:

- Anytime you're still covered by the group health plan.
- During the 8-month period that begins the month after the employment ends or the coverage ends, whichever happens first.

### Contact the Social Security Administration (SSA)

- Visit or call your local SSA office.
- Go to [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).
- Call the national phone number 800-772-1213.

## Medicare Enrollment Examples

If your 65th birthday is April 10 and you apply for Medicare in...

January • February • March



Medicare starts April 1

April • May • June • July

Medicare starts the first day of



May • July • Sept. • Oct.

However, if you miss your enrollment period and apply...



After July



- You can't enroll until the next January.
- Your coverage starts the following July.
- You'll pay a 10 percent penalty each year you wait.

# Medicare Coverage — Part A

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## Part A - Hospital Coverage

### Inpatient Hospital

Medicare covers semi-private rooms, meals, general nursing, and drugs as part of your inpatient treatment, and other hospital services and supplies. This includes care you get in acute care hospitals, critical access hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long-term care hospitals, inpatient care as part of a qualifying clinical research study, and mental health care. This doesn't include private-duty nursing, television or phone charges, or personal care items. If you have Part B, it generally covers 80% of the Medicare-approved amount for doctor's services you get while you're in a hospital.

### Skilled Nursing Facility

Medicare covers up to 100 days of semi-private rooms, meals, skilled nursing and rehabilitative services, and other medically necessary services and supplies after a minimum of a 3-day (three consecutive midnights) inpatient hospital stay for a related illness or injury.

### Home Health Care

Medicare covers medically necessary part-time or intermittent skilled nursing care, and/or physical therapy, speech-language pathology services, and/or services for people with a continuing need for occupational therapy and homebound.

### Hospice

Medicare provides hospice care (pain relief and symptom management) for terminally ill patients who qualify and choose the palliative care over curative treatment. Medicare does not pay for room and board at a hospice or nursing facility.

### Medicare Doesn't Cover Everything

#### Some items and services not covered by Medicare include:

- Long-term care (also called custodial care)
- Most dental care
- Eye examinations related to prescribing glasses
- Dentures
- Cosmetic surgery
- Hearing aids and exams for fitting them
- Routine foot care
- Most care outside of the USA, including cruise ships

# Medicare Coverage — Part B

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## Part B - Medical Coverage

### Outpatient Hospital and Medical Services

Medicare covers many diagnostic and treatment services in hospital outpatient departments, including observation stays. Medicare covers approved procedures like X-rays, casts, stitches or outpatient surgeries.

### Doctor Visits

Medicare covers medically necessary doctor services (including doctor services you get when you are a hospital inpatient). Medicare also covers other health care providers, like physician assistants, nurse practitioners, social workers, physical therapists and psychologists.

### Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

Medicare covers items like oxygen equipment and supplies, wheelchairs, walkers and hospital beds ordered by a doctor for use in the home. Make sure doctors and DME suppliers are enrolled in Medicare. Most DME, prosthetics, orthotics and supplies must be purchased from a contracted supplier.

### Preventive Benefits

Medicare pays for many preventive services to keep you healthy. Preventive services can find health problems early - when treatment works best - and can keep you from getting certain diseases. Preventive services include exams, shots, lab tests, and screenings. They also include counseling and education to help you take care of your own health. A list of Medicare's preventive benefits is available on the next page.

**If you're covered under your (or your spouse's) current employer group health plan, you may delay enrolling in Medicare Part B without penalty.**

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## Notes:

# Part B - Medical Coverage

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## Medicare Preventive Benefits

The Part B deductible and coinsurance are waived for most preventive care services. Below is a partial list of preventive benefits. Please call us for a complete list of all preventive services available.

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### **Shots**

- Pneumococcal
  - Flu
  - Hepatitis B (for people at medium to high risk)
  - COVID-19
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### **Exams**

- One-time "Welcome to Medicare" physical exam (within the first 12 months you have Part B)
  - Annual "Wellness" visits
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### **Screenings**

- Colorectal cancer
  - Prostate cancer
  - Breast cancer (mammograms)
  - Pelvic exam
  - Clinical breast exam (part of pelvic exam)
  - Pap test
  - Cardiovascular
  - Diabetes (for people at risk)
  - Glaucoma (for people at high risk)
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### **Other**

- Diabetes supplies and self-management training
  - Bone mass measurement
  - Medical nutrition therapy
  - Smoking cessation counseling
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## **Notes:**

# 2021 Medicare Amounts

## Out-of-Pocket Part A Costs

**Monthly Premium** - \$0 for most\*  
**Hospital Deductible** - \$1,484/benefit period

### Hospital Daily Copayments

Days 1-60 - \$0  
 Days 61-90 - \$371/day  
 Days 91-150 - \$742/day  
 (Lifetime reserve days)

### Skilled Nursing Daily Copayments

Days 1-20 - \$0  
 Days 21-100 - \$185.50/day

\*Those with fewer than 40 quarters of work credit pay a Part A Premium of up to \$471/month.

## Out-of-Pocket Part B Costs

**Monthly Premium** - \$148.50 average  
**Annual Deductible** - \$203

**Coinsurance** - 20% for most services after meeting the deductible

Some will pay a higher premium if they enroll late (late enrollment penalty) or have higher income (see chart below).

Beneficiaries who file an individual tax return with income	Beneficiaries who file a joint tax return with income	Income-related monthly adjustment amount	Total monthly premium amount
Less than or equal to \$88,000	Less than or equal to \$176,000	\$0.00	\$148.50
Greater than \$88,000 and less than or equal to \$111,000	Greater than \$176,000 and less than or equal to \$222,000	\$59.40	\$207.90
Greater than \$111,000 and less than or equal to \$138,000	Greater than \$222,000 and less than or equal to \$276,000	\$148.50	\$297.00
Greater than \$138,000 and less than or equal to \$165,000	Greater than \$276,000 and less than or equal to \$330,000	\$237.60	\$386.10
Greater than \$165,000 and less than or equal to \$500,000	Greater than \$330,000 and less than or equal to \$750,000	\$326.70	\$475.20
Greater than or equal to \$500,000	Greater than or equal to \$750,000	\$356.40	\$504.90



# 2021 Medicare Savings Programs

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If your income and resources are limited, you may qualify for help paying amounts related to Medicare's medical coverage. Medicare Savings Programs pay your monthly Medicare Part B premium and save you other associated out-of-pocket costs as well. Most people who are eligible for Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) also qualify for the Part D Low-Income Subsidy.

There are four levels of eligibility under MSP

## **1. Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)**

- Acts like a free Medicare Supplement policy.
- Pays the Part B premium.
- Pays all deductibles and coinsurance that Medicare does not pay.

## **2. Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)**

- Pays the Part B premium.

## **3. Qualified Individual (QI)**

- Pays the Part B premium.

## **4. Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals (QDWI)**

- Helps pay the Part A premium.

You may qualify for MSP if your yearly income and total resources are below these limits in 2021.

- Single person
  - Income less than \$1,469/month, and
  - Total resources less than \$7,970.
- Married person living with a spouse and no other dependents
  - Income less than \$1,980/month, and
  - Total resources less than \$11,960.

How to apply

- Call OSHIIP: 1-800-686-1578.
- Call your local Area Agency on Aging: 1-866-243-5678.
- Call the Ohio Medicaid Hotline: 1-800-324-8680.

**Please note: Some agencies may refer to Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) as Medicare Premium Assistance Programs (MPAP).**

# Medicare Supplement Insurance

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## Understanding MedSup Policies

Original Medicare pays for many health care services and supplies, but not all. Medicare Supplement (MedSup) Insurance policies are sold by private companies and can help pay some of the health care costs that Original Medicare doesn't cover, like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles. They are also called Medigap policies.

Some MedSup policies also offer coverage for services that Original Medicare doesn't cover, like medical care when you travel outside the U.S. If you buy a MedSup policy, Medicare will pay its share of the Medicare-approved amount for covered health care costs. Your MedSup policy then pays its share. All MedSup policies have a premium that's additional to amounts you pay for Medicare Part A and Part B.

## MedSup Policies are Standardized

Every Medicare Supplement policy must follow federal and state laws designed to protect you, and policies must be clearly identified as "Medicare Supplement Insurance." Insurance companies can sell you a "standardized" policy only, identified by letters. All policies offer the same basic benefits, but some offer additional benefits so you can choose the one that meets your needs.

## Comparing MedSup Policies

Different insurance companies may charge different premiums for the same policy. As you shop for a policy, be sure you're comparing the same policy. For example, compare the premium for Plan A from one company with another company's Plan A premium.

Also, you may be able to buy a type of MedSup policy called Medicare SELECT. These policies require you to use specific hospitals and, in some cases, specific doctors or other health care providers to get full coverage. If you buy a Medicare SELECT policy, you have the right to change your mind within 12 months and switch to a standard MedSup policy.

### **Your Right to a Policy is Guaranteed**

- During your initial open enrollment - 6-month period beginning with your Part B effective date at age 65 or older.
- In special circumstances - typically 63 days after the loss of coverage.

# Medicare Supplement

## Rights and Protections

Medicare supplement (MedSup) protections apply to those persons who face uncertain conditions as explained below. There may be times when more than one situation applies to you. When this happens, you can choose the MedSup protection that gives you the best choice of MedSup policies.

Guaranteed issue and open enrollment rights apply to both MedSup and Medicare SELECT policies. Regardless of your health, you have an open enrollment opportunity during the first six months you are both age 65 and enrolled in Medicare Part B. You also have guaranteed issue rights in the situations described below; these rights generally end 63 days after you lose coverage.

Situation	Protects You If...	MedSup Plan Choices
Situation 1	Your Medicare Advantage Plan or PACE program coverage ends because the plan is leaving the Medicare Program.	A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L
Situation 2	Your coverage through your group health plan ends.	A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L
Situation 3	You have to end your health coverage because you move out of the plan's service area.	A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L
Situation 4	You joined a Medicare Advantage Plan or PACE program when you were first eligible for Medicare at age 65. Within the first year of joining, you decided you wanted to leave.	A - N
Situation 5 (trial right)	You dropped a MedSup policy to join a Medicare Advantage Plan, Medicare SELECT policy, or a PACE program for the first time and now you want to leave after less than a year on the plan.	A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L
Situation 6 (trial right)	You lose your MedSup coverage when your insurance company goes bankrupt or your MedSup coverage ends through no fault of your own.	A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L
Situation 7	You leave your plan because your Medicare Advantage Plan, Medicare SELECT policy, or MedSup company has misled you or hasn't followed the rules. For example, the marketing materials were not true or quality standards were not met.	A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L

\*Plans D and G are guaranteed issue for those new to Medicare January 1, 2020 or after.

# Benefit Chart - Medicare Supplement Plans

## Sold on or After January 1, 2020

This chart shows the benefits included in each of the standard Medicare supplement plans. Some plans may not be available. Only applicants **first** eligible for Medicare before 2020 may purchase Plans C, F, and high deductible F.

Note: A ✓ means 100% of the benefit is paid.

Benefits	Plans Available to All Applicants								Medicare first eligible before 2020	
	A	B	D	G <sup>1</sup>	K	L	M	N	C	F <sup>1</sup>
Medicare Part A coinsurance and hospital coverage (up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are used up)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medicare Part B coinsurance or Copayment	✓	✓	✓	✓	50%	75%	✓	✓ copays apply <sup>3</sup>	✓	✓
Blood (first three pints)	✓	✓	✓	✓	50%	75%	✓	✓	✓	✓
Part A hospice care coinsurance/copayment	✓	✓	✓	✓	50%	75%	✓	✓	✓	✓
Skilled nursing facility coinsurance			✓	✓	50%	75%	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medicare Part A deductible		✓	✓	✓	50%	75%	50%	✓	✓	✓
Medicare Part B deductible									✓	✓
Medicare Part B excess charges				✓						✓
Foreign travel emergency (up to plan limits)			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Out-of-pocket limit in 2021 <sup>2</sup>					\$6,220 <sup>2</sup>	\$3,110 <sup>2</sup>				

<sup>1</sup>Plans F and G also have a high deductible option which require first paying a plan deductible of \$2,370 before the plan begins to pay. Once the plan deductible is met, the plan pays 100% of covered services for the rest of the calendar year. High deductible plan G does not cover the Medicare Part B deductible. However, high deductible plans F and G count your payment of the Medicare Part B deductible toward meeting the plan deductible.

<sup>2</sup>Plans K and L pay 100% of covered services for the rest of the calendar year once you meet the out-of-pocket yearly limit.

<sup>3</sup>Plan N pays 100% of the Part B coinsurance, except for a co-payment of up to \$20 for some office visits and up to a \$50 co-payment for emergency room visits that do not result in an inpatient admission.

# MedSup Plans

List of insurance companies licensed to sell MedSup plans in Ohio.  
Call OSHIIP at 1-800-686-1578 to get a personalized comparison.

Company	Phone	Internet Address
(Anthem) Community Insurance Co.	888-290-9160	
AARP / United Healthcare *G*	800-523-5800	<a href="http://www.aarpmedicaresupplement.com">www.aarpmedicaresupplement.com</a>
Aetna Health and Life Insurance Co.	800-264-4000	<a href="http://www.aetnaseniorproducts.com">www.aetnaseniorproducts.com</a>
American National Life Insurance Co.	800-899-6503	<a href="http://www.americannational.com">www.americannational.com</a>
American Republic Corp Insurance Co.	888-755-3065	<a href="http://www.americanenterprise.com">www.americanenterprise.com</a>
American Retirement Life Ins Co. (Cigna)	855-891-9368	<a href="http://www.cigna.com">www.cigna.com</a>
AultCare Insurance Co.	877-863-1791	<a href="http://www.primetimehealthplan.com">www.primetimehealthplan.com</a>
Bankers Fidelity Life Insurance Co.	800-241-1439	<a href="http://www.bflc.com">www.bflc.com</a>
Christian Fidelity Life Insurance Co.	800 386-5202	
Cigna Health and Life Insurance Co.	866-459-4272	<a href="http://www.cigna.com">www.cigna.com</a>
Colonial Penn Life Insurance Co.	877-355-8375	
Combined Insurance Co. of America	800-490-1322	<a href="http://www.combinedinsurance.com">www.combinedinsurance.com</a>
Companion Life Insurance Co	888-220-0466	<a href="http://www.companionlife.com">www.companionlife.com</a>
Continental Life Insurance Co.	877.626.4115	
CSI Life Insurance Co.	866-644-3988	<a href="http://www.csi-omaha.com">www.csi-omaha.com</a>
Equitable Life & Casualty Insurance Co.	877-358-4060	<a href="http://www.equilife.com">www.equilife.com</a>
Erie Family Life Insurance Co	800 458-0811	
Everence Association, Inc.	800-348-7468	<a href="http://www.everence.com">www.everence.com</a>
Everest Reinsurance Co.	844-301-0395	<a href="http://www.everestregroup.com">www.everestregroup.com</a>
Globe Life and Accident Insurance Co	800-801-6831	<a href="http://www.globecaremedsupp.com">www.globecaremedsupp.com</a>
GPM Health and Life Insurance Co.	800-541-5858	<a href="http://www.gpmhealthandlife.com">www.gpmhealthandlife.com</a>
Guarantee Trust Life Insurance Company	800-338-7452	<a href="http://www.gtlic.com">www.gtlic.com</a>
Heartland National Life Insurance Co.	866-916-7971	<a href="http://www.csi-omaha.com">www.csi-omaha.com</a>
Humana Insurance Co	888-310-8482	<a href="http://www.humana.com">www.humana.com</a>
Individual Assurance Co.	888-524-3629	<a href="http://www.iaclife.com">www.iaclife.com</a>
Liberty Bankers Life Insurance Co.	844-770-2400	<a href="http://www.lbig.com">www.lbig.com</a>
Lumico Life Insurance Co.	866-440-4047	<a href="http://www.lumico.com">www.lumico.com</a>
Medical Mutual	800-382-5729	<a href="http://www.medmutual.com">www.medmutual.com</a>
Medico Corp Life Insurance Co.	888-755-3065	<a href="http://www.americanenterprise.com">www.americanenterprise.com</a>
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Co.	844-316-8678	<a href="http://www.mutualofomaha.com/">www.mutualofomaha.com/</a>
National Guardian Life Insurance Co.	800.548.2962	<a href="https://www.nglic.com/">https://www.nglic.com/</a>
National Health Ins Co.		
New Era Life Insurance Co.	800-552-7879	<a href="http://www.neweralife.com">www.neweralife.com</a>
Oxford Life Insurance Co.	866-641-9999	<a href="http://www.oxfordlife.com">www.oxfordlife.com</a>
Pan American Life Insurance Co.	877-939-4550	<a href="https://www.palig.com/">https://www.palig.com/</a>
Paramount Insurance Co.	888-891-0707	<a href="http://www.paramounthealthcare.com">www.paramounthealthcare.com</a>
Pekin Life Insurance Co.	800-322-0160	<a href="http://www.pekininsurance.com">www.pekininsurance.com</a>

Call the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) with questions: 1-800-686-1578.

# MedSup Plans (cont'd)

Company	Phone	Internet Address
Philadelphia American Life	800-552-7879	<a href="http://www.neweralife.com">www.neweralife.com</a>
Physicians Mutual Insurance Co.	800-228-9100	<a href="http://www.physiciansmutual.com">www.physiciansmutual.com</a>
Prosperity Life Group		<a href="http://www.prosperitylife.com">www.prosperitylife.com</a>
Puritan Life Insurance Co.	888-474-9519	<a href="http://www.puritanlifeinsurance.com">www.puritanlifeinsurance.com</a>
Renaissance Life & Health Insurance Co.	844-202-4150	<a href="http://www.ren.admin-portal.org/">www.ren.admin-portal.org/</a>
Reserve National Insurance Co.	800-654-9106	<a href="http://www.reservenational.com">www.reservenational.com</a>
Sentinel Security Life Insurance Co.	800-247-1423	<a href="http://www.sslco.com">www.sslco.com</a>
Shenandoah Life Insurance Co.	855-406-9085	<a href="http://www.shenlife.com">www.shenlife.com</a>
Southern Guaranty Insurance Co.	888.912.4767	<a href="http://www.sgcinsurance.com/">www.sgcinsurance.com/</a>
State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Co.	Call local agent	<a href="http://www.statefarm.com">www.statefarm.com</a>
Summacare, Inc.	888-464-8440	<a href="https://www.summacare.com/">https://www.summacare.com/</a>
The Order of United Commercial Travelers	800-848-0123	<a href="http://www.uct.org">www.uct.org</a>
THP Insurance Company, Inc.	877-847-7915	<a href="http://www.healthplan.org">www.healthplan.org</a>
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans #	800-847-4836	<a href="http://www.thrivent.com">www.thrivent.com</a>
Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Co.	866-205-9120	<a href="http://www.transamerica.com">www.transamerica.com</a>
Unified Life Insurance Co.	877-807-2143	<a href="http://www.unifiedlife.com">www.unifiedlife.com</a>
Union Security Insurance Co.	855-741-4308	<a href="http://www.usiccares.com">www.usiccares.com</a>
United American Insurance Co.	800-331-2512	<a href="http://www.unitedamerican.com">www.unitedamerican.com</a>
United World Life Insurance Co.	800-667-2937	<a href="http://www.mutualofomaha.com">www.mutualofomaha.com</a>
USAA Life Insurance Co.	800-531-8722	<a href="http://www.USAA.com">www.USAA.com</a>
Western United Life Assurance Co.	Contact Agent	<a href="http://www.manhattanlife.com/Seniors">www.manhattanlife.com/Seniors</a>
Wisconsin Physicians Service Ins Co.	888-253-2694	<a href="http://www.wpshealth.com">www.wpshealth.com</a>

**Call the Ohio Senior Health Insurance  
Information Program (OSHIIP) for a specific  
plan comparison and premium details.**

**1-800-686-1578**

# Medicare Coverage — Part D

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## Part D is Prescription Drug Coverage

Medicare offers prescription drug coverage to everyone with Medicare. Consider joining a Medicare drug plan even if you don't currently take prescriptions. If you decide not to join a Medicare drug plan when you're first eligible, and you don't have other creditable prescription drug coverage, or you don't qualify for Extra Help, you'll likely pay a late enrollment penalty if you join a plan later. Plus, you'll have a waiting period before coverage starts.

To get Medicare prescription drug coverage, you must join a plan offered by an insurance company or other private company approved by Medicare. Each plan can vary in cost and specific drugs covered.

There are 2 ways to get Medicare prescription drug coverage:

### 1. Medicare Prescription Drug Plans

These plans (sometimes called "PDPs") add drug coverage to Original Medicare.

**2. Medicare Advantage Plans** like an HMO or PPO) or other Medicare health plans that offer Medicare prescription drug coverage.

You get all of your Part A, Part B, and prescription drug coverage (Part D) through these plans. Medicare Advantage Plans with prescription drug coverage are sometimes called "MA-PDs." You must have Part A and Part B to join a Medicare Advantage Plan.

### **If You Have Employer or Union Coverage...**

Call your benefits administrator before you make any changes, or before you sign up for any other coverage. If you drop your employer or union coverage, you may not be able to get it back. You also may not be able to drop your employer or union drug coverage without also dropping your employer or union health (doctor and hospital) coverage. If you drop coverage for yourself, you may also have to drop coverage for your spouse and dependents.

# Part D - Prescription Drug Coverage

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## When can I join, switch, or drop a Medicare drug plan?

- When you're first eligible for Medicare, you can join during the 7-month initial enrollment period that begins 3 months before the month you turn 65, includes the month you turn 65, and ends 3 months after the month you turn 65.
- If you get Medicare due to a disability, you can join during the 7-month period that begins 3 months before your 25th month of disability benefits and ends 3 months after your 25th month of disability. You'll have another chance to join during the 7-month period that begins 3 months before the month you turn 65 and ends 3 months after the month you turn 65.
- Between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7, anyone can join, switch, or drop a Medicare drug plan. The change will take effect on Jan. 1 as long as you enroll by Dec. 7.
- Once per calendar quarter, if you qualify for Extra Help.

## Special Enrollment Periods

You generally must stay enrolled for the calendar year, but you may be able to join, switch, or drop Medicare drug plans at other times if you:

- Move out of your plan's service area.
- Lose other creditable prescription drug coverage (like an employer plan or a retirement plan).
- Live in a care facility (like a nursing home).
- Have Medicaid.
- Qualify for Extra Help.

If you have limited income and resources, you may qualify for help to pay for some prescription drug costs. **Extra Help** is a Medicare program to help people with limited income and resources pay Medicare prescription drug costs. You may qualify for Extra Help, also called the low-income subsidy (LIS), if your yearly income and total resources are below these limits in 2021:

- Single person:
  - Income less than \$1,630/month, and
  - Total resources less than \$14,790.
- Married person living with a spouse and no other dependents:
  - Income less than \$2,198/month, and
  - Total resources less than \$29,520.



# 2021 Part D Costs

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## Costs can change every year

Each Medicare drug plan has its own formulary. Many plans place drugs into different “tiers” on their formularies. Drugs in each tier have a different cost; drugs in a lower tier will generally cost you less than those in a higher tier.

- **Average Monthly Premium:** \$37.00
- **Annual Deductible:** \$0 - \$445
- **Copays or Coinsurance:** 25% or flat amount until \$10,313.75 total costs
- **Catastrophic Coverage:** 5% coinsurance

**Note:** Medicare drug plans must cover all medically necessary, commercially available vaccines not already covered under Part B (such as the shingles vaccine).

Plans may have additional restrictions for coverage:

- **Prior authorization:** You and/or your prescriber must contact the drug plan before you can fill certain prescriptions. Your prescriber may need to show that the drug is medically necessary for the plan to cover it.
- **Quantity limits:** Limits on how much medication you can get at a time.
- **Step therapy:** You must try one or more similar, lower cost drugs before the plan will cover the prescribed drug

If you or your prescriber believe that one of these coverage rules should be waived, you can ask for an exception.

Also, your plan may have contracted with certain pharmacies you must use to keep your copayments at their lowest. Make sure you know which pharmacies your plan has designated as preferred and network. Some plans have an option to receive prescriptions by mail order.

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## Notes:

# 2021 Higher Income Part D Costs

## Part D - Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

Listed below are the 2021 Part D monthly income-related premium adjustment amounts to be paid by beneficiaries who file an individual tax return (including those who are single, head of household, qualifying widow(er) with a dependent child, or married and filing separately who lived apart from their spouse for the entire taxable year) or a joint tax return.

<b>Beneficiaries who file an individual tax return with income</b>	<b>Beneficiaries who file a joint tax return with income</b>	<b>Income-related monthly adjustment amount</b>
Less than or equal to \$88,000	Less than or equal to \$176,000	\$0.00 + YPP
Greater than \$88,000 and less than or equal to \$111,000	Greater than \$176,001 and less than or equal to \$222,000	\$12.30 + YPP
Greater than \$111,000 and less than or equal to \$138,000	Greater than \$222,001 and less than or equal to \$276,000	\$31.80 + YPP
Greater than \$138,000 and less than or equal to \$165,000	Greater than \$276,001 and less than or equal to \$330,000	\$51.20 + YPP
Greater than \$165,000 and less than or equal to \$500,000	Greater than \$330,001 and less than or equal to \$750,000	\$70.70 + YPP
Greater than or equal to \$500,000	Greater than or equal to \$750,000	\$77.10 + YPP

### Late Enrollment Surcharges and Penalties

If you aren't eligible for premium-free Part A, and you don't buy it when you're first eligible, your monthly premium may go up 10%. You'll have to pay the higher premium for twice the number of years you could have had Part A, but didn't sign up.

If you don't sign up for Part B when you're first eligible, or if you drop Part B and then get it later, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Medicare. Your monthly premium for Part B may go up 10% for each full 12-month period that you could have had Part B, but didn't sign up for it.

If you don't sign up for Part D when you're first eligible, or if you drop Part D and then get it later, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part D. The cost of the late enrollment penalty depends on how long you didn't have creditable prescription drug coverage. The late enrollment penalty is calculated by multiplying 1% of the national base beneficiary premium (\$33.06) times the number of full, uncovered months that you were eligible but didn't join a Medicare prescription drug plan and went without other creditable prescription drug coverage. This final amount is rounded to the nearest \$.10 and added to your monthly premium. The national base beneficiary premium may increase each year, so the penalty amount may also increase each year.

# Medicare Advantage Plans

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## **Medicare Advantage Plans are available to those who:**

- Are enrolled in Part A and Part B.
- Live within the plans service area (county).

## **Choosing Medicare Advantage Plans as an alternative to Original Medicare:**

- Advantage Plans must cover everything Original Medicare covers.
- Offered by private companies to replace Original Medicare and secondary insurance.
- Multiple options in each county, such as:
  - **Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO):** require care and services from providers and facilities in the plan's network.
  - **Preferred Provider Organizations (PPO):** allow care and services from outside the network but typically with higher costs.
  - **Private-Fee-For-Service Plans (PFFS):** determine how much it will pay doctors, other health care providers, and hospitals, and how much you must pay when you receive care.
  - **Medicare Savings Accounts (MSA):** couples a high-deductible plan and savings account. You can use money from the savings account to pay for your health care
- Most plans include the Part D benefit (MAPD).
- Enrollees pay the Part B premium and any other applicable costs.

## **When can I join, switch, or drop a Medicare Advantage Plan?**

- When you first become eligible for Medicare, you can join during the 7-month period that begins 3 months before the month you turn 65, includes the month you turn 65, and ends 3 months after the month you turn 65.
- If you get Medicare due to a disability, you can join during the 7-month period that begins 3 months before your 25th month of disability and ends 3 months after your 25th month of disability.
- From Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 anyone can join, switch, or drop a Medicare Advantage Plan. Your coverage will begin Jan. 1, as long as the plan gets your request by Dec. 7.

# Medicare Advantage Plans

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## Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MA OEP)

From January 1- March 31, anyone in a Medicare Advantage Plan can use this enrollment period to switch to a different MA or MA-PD or drop their current MA or MA-PD and return to Original Medicare and enroll in Part D (if you have Part D). You won't have a guaranteed issue right to buy a Medigap policy. You cannot use this enrollment period to enroll in a Part D Plan or MA plan for the first time. To use this enrollment period, you must already be in a MA or MA-PD on January 1. Your coverage begins the first of the month after you enroll.

## Special Enrollment Periods

In most cases, you must stay enrolled for the calendar year in which your coverage begins. However, you may be able to join, switch, or drop a Medicare Advantage Plan during a Special Enrollment Period. Such a period occurs when:

- You move out of your plan's service area.
- You have Medicaid.
- You qualify for Extra Help.
- You live in a care facility (such as a nursing home).

## 12-Month Trial Period

You may have a guaranteed right to buy a Medicare Supplement policy in either circumstance shown below:

- You enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan when you are first eligible for Medicare at age 65, but within the first 12 months you decide to replace the MA plan with a MedSup.
- You drop a Medicare Supplement policy and join a Medicare Advantage plan for the first time, but within the first 12 months you decide to replace the MA plan with a MedSup.

**Find out provider network details and all possible out-of-pocket costs associated with any plan you're considering.**

# Medicare Supplement vs. Medicare Advantage

Questions	Medicare Supplement (MedSup or Medigap)	Medicare Advantage (Part C)
<b>Cost?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part B Premium</li> <li>• Higher plan premium</li> <li>• Little or no out-of-pocket cost when used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part B Premium</li> <li>• Lower plan premium</li> <li>• Charged out-of-pocket cost as plan is used</li> </ul>
<b>Coverage?</b>	<p><b>Pays secondary after (and only after):</b></p> <p>Medicare Part A and Part B process claims</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replaces Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B (and usually includes Part D drug benefit)</li> <li>• Must cover at a minimum all services provided by Original Medicare</li> </ul>
<b>Provider choice?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any provider that accepts Medicare</li> <li>• May have foreign travel emergency coverage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan will have a provider network. Cost will be higher out of network</li> <li>• Check with plan for travel restrictions</li> </ul>
<b>Is drug coverage included?</b>	<b>No.</b> Must purchase separate Part D Plan	<b>Yes.</b> Some plans available without drug coverage
<b>Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important to use any provider without network restrictions</li> <li>• Can afford higher monthly premiums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willing to use network of providers</li> <li>• May have added benefits (vision, dental, hearing, fitness, etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>Cards in your wallet?</b>	<p><b>Three</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Original Medicare card</li> <li>2. MedSup card</li> <li>3. Part D/prescription card</li> </ol>	<p><b>One</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Medicare Advantage card. No need to carry your Original Medicare card</li> </ol>
<b>When can I purchase?</b>	<p><b>Applications may be completed through insurance companies and agents during:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MedSup open enrollment (1st six months after taking Part B at age 65 or older)</li> <li>• Guaranteed issue situations</li> <li>• Anytime, however outside of the MedSup open enrollment and guaranteed issue situations, plans may medically underwrite policies and turn you down</li> </ul>	<p><b>Applications may be completed on <a href="https://www.medicare.gov">medicare.gov</a> during:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial open enrollment when new to Medicare</li> <li>• Annual open enrollment (Oct 15 - Dec 7)</li> <li>• Medicare Advantage open enrollment period - must be enrolled in Medicare Advantage as of Jan 1 and coverage begins the first month after you enroll</li> <li>• Medicare Advantage plans must accept your application during enrollment periods as long as you:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Live in the service area (county)</li> <li>2. Have both Medicare A&amp; B</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

# How to Prevent Medicare Sales Fraud

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**Medicare Sales Fraud** is defined as when someone intentionally falsifies information or deceives Medicare. Common types of health care fraud include medical identity theft, billing for unnecessary services or items, billing for services or items not furnished, upcoding to more complex services and upselling a single comprehensive code to create individual charges.

## **Questionable practices include:**

- Removing you from Original Medicare without your knowledge.
- Enrolling you in a plan you can't afford.
- Falsely telling you that your doctor or hospital accepts your plan.

## **When selling Medicare products, agents cannot legally:**

- Use high-pressure sales tactics.
- Sell policies door to door, send unsolicited emails, or make unsolicited telephone calls.
- Enroll you at a health fair or event.
- Sell any other product, such as life insurance, at the time of the sale.

## **When you receive your open enrollment information from Medicare and insurance companies:**

- Call the Ohio Department of Insurance at 1-800-686-1578 for assistance.
- Ask if enrolling in private insurance could jeopardize your retirement benefits.
- Never sign anything on the same day as the sales presentation.
- Request information in writing about each plan you are considering and take the time to review it.

**Be Proactive** - If you suspect wrongdoing or have been victimized, call the Ohio Department of Insurance's Fraud and Enforcement hotline at 1-800-686-1527 or contact non-profit Pro Seniors and its fraud-fighting Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) at 1-800-488-6070.

### **Healthcare Exchange Enrollment Begins at the Same Time as Medicare Open Enrollment**

There may be a greater risk for fraudulent activities. It is important to know that the Healthcare Exchange does not have any effect on your Medicare coverage or choices, and it is against the law for someone to sell you an Exchange plan when they know you receive Medicare.

# Contacts & Resources

Agency	Phone Number	Website
Ohio Department of Insurance • OSHIP • Consumer Services • Fraud & Enforcement	800-686-1578 800-686-1526 800-686-1527	insurance.ohio.gov
Quality Improvement Organization- Livanta	888-524-9900	livantaqio.com
National Council on Aging	202-479-1200	ncoa.org
Ohio Department of Aging	800-282-1206	aging.ohio.gov
Ohio Department of Health	800-342-0553	odh.ohio.gov
Ohio Department of Medicaid	800-324-8680	medicaid.ohio.gov
Ohio Department of Taxation	800-282-1780	tax.ohio.gov
Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS)	800-222-PERS (800- 222-7377)	opers.org
Ohio School Employees Retirement System (SERS)	800-878-5853	ohsers.org
Ohio State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)	888- 227-7877	strsoh.org
ProSeniors	800-488-6070	proseniors.org
Social Security Administration	800-772-1213	ssa.gov
TRICARE	877-874-2273	tricare.mil
U.S. Center for Medicaid & Medicare	800-MEDICARE (800- 633-4227)	medicare .gov
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services- Office of Inspector General	1-800-447-8477 (1-800- HHS-TIPS)	oig.hhs.gov
U.S. Department of Labor	866-487-2365	dol.gov
U.S. Veterans Administration	877-222-8387	va.gov



**Department  
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