

# What Are My Medicare Options?

## Original Medicare

Part A - Hospital | Part B - Medical

Fee-for-service coverage under which the government pays your health care providers directly for your Part A and/or Part B benefits.

+

## Medicare Supplement (Secondary) Insurance

Sold by private insurance companies to fill "gaps" in Original Medicare coverage.

Others may have coverage through a retirement health plan or Medicaid.

+

## Prescription Drug Coverage

Private companies approved by Medicare run these plans. Plans have different costs and cover different drugs.

OR

## Medicare Advantage Plans

(HMOs and PPOs)  
Part C

Offered by private companies that contract with Medicare to provide Part A and Part B benefits.

Plan types include health maintenance organizations (HMOs), preferred provider organizations (PPOs), private fee-for-service plans and more.

These plans take the place of Original Medicare and most include the Part D prescription drug benefit.

## How Do I Compare Part D Plans?

Ohio Department of Insurance:  
1-800-686-1578

Medicare: 1-800-MEDICARE

## Important Dates:

October	Announcement of Part C and Part D plans for the upcoming year. Visit <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a> to compare plans
	Medicare open enrollment begins October 15
December	Medicare open enrollment ends December 7
January	New plans and plan changes take effect January 1

The Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) is a division of the Ohio Department of Insurance that provides free information and education to people covered by Medicare and their caregivers.

Ohio Senior Health Insurance  
Information Program (OSHIIP)

1-800-686-1578



50 West Town Street  
Suite 300  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

1-800-686-1578  
[www.insurance.ohio.gov](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov)  
email: [oshiipmail@insurance.ohio.gov](mailto:oshiipmail@insurance.ohio.gov)

An Equal Opportunity Employer



This publication was supported by the Ohio Department of Insurance with financial assistance, in whole or in part, through a grant from the Administration for Community Living.

Get Extra Help With

# Medicare Part D

Prescription Drug Costs  
2021 - 2022

THE 'EXTRA HELP' PROGRAM

**Ohio** | Department  
of Insurance

**Mike DeWine**  
Governor

**Jon Husted**  
Lt. Governor

**Judith L. French**  
Director

February 2021

## What is Medicare Part D?

Part D is Medicare's comprehensive prescription drug coverage benefit and is available to anyone eligible for Medicare Part A or Part B. People with Medicare may enroll in Part D coverage through either a stand-alone plan or a Medicare Advantage plan. People on Medicare who choose not to enroll and have no other drug coverage may pay more for late enrollment.

## What Does Part D Cost?

In 2021 the Medicare Part D out-of-pocket costs for consumers are:

- Average Monthly Premiums - \$37.00
- Annual Deductible - \$0 - \$445
- Copays - 25% or flat copay amounts based on formulary.
- Initial Coverage Limit - \$4,130
- Out-of-Pocket Threshold - \$6,550
- Catastrophic Coverage - \$10,313

## How Do I Choose a Part D Plan?

Each year you should review your plan options and look for three things:

- Convenience - Know what pharmacies are in network and if the plan has preferred pharmacies
- Cost - Know all possible out of pocket expenses
- Coverage - Make sure all your current prescription medications are included

For help comparing prescription drug plans and to learn about other programs that may help you pay drug costs, call OSHIP:

**1-800-686-1578**

## What is the 'Extra Help' Program?

Extra Help is a Medicare program that helps people with limited income and resources pay Medicare prescription drug costs. You may qualify for Extra Help, also called low-income subsidy (LIS), if your annual income and total resources are below these limits this year:

Single Person		Married Person	
Monthly Income:	\$1,630	Monthly Income:	\$2,198
Resources:	\$14,790	Resources:	\$29,520

For help applying for Extra Help benefits, contact the the Ohio Department of Insurance at 1-800-686-1578.

## What Counts as Income & Resources?

Resources include money in a checking or savings account, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Resources don't include your home, car, household items, burial plot, burial expenses (up to \$1,500 per person), or life insurance policies. Income includes any money received from social security, pensions, employment, interest and more.

If you qualify for Extra Help, Medicare will pay:

- All or most of the monthly premium
- All or most of the annual deductible
- Most of your copayments/co-insurance
- Full coverage during the donut hole

In 2021, drug costs for most people who qualify will be no more than \$3.70 for each generic drug and \$9.20 for each brand name drug. Look on the Extra Help letters you get, or contact your plan to find out your exact costs.

**NOTE: All people with Medicare should review their drug options EVERY year and choose the plan that's best for them!**