

MEDICARE GUIDE

What is Part A?

Coverage: In-patient hospital stays, skilled nursing care (rehab), hospice.

Premium: \$0 cost if you paid social security tax for 10 years or longer.

What is Part B?

Coverage: Out-patient care. Examples: doctor visits, labs, x-rays, outpatient surgery, urgent care, ER.

Premium: Standard rate is \$164.90/month for one person. Low-income and high-income earners may pay different amounts. Contact me and I will send you a detailed document outlining limits.

Do I need to enroll?

If you have employer coverage and your employer employs over 20 employees, you may be able to delay enrolling in Medicare. Ask your employer if your coverage is creditable for Medicare.

*Medicare may be a better option than employer coverage. Let's compare together.

When to enroll?

Initial enrollment begins 3 months before your 65th birth month and ends 3 months after your birth month.

Example: Jack's Bday is 12-25-1958. His 7-month enrollment window is Sep 1st – Mar 31st. If Jack enrolls before Dec 1st, his Medicare will start on Dec 1st. If Jack enrolls Dec 1st- Mar 31st, his Medicare may be delayed 1-6 months.

How to Enroll?

If you are collecting Social Security income, you are automatically enrolled in Part A and Part B. You will receive a Medicare card 2-4 months before your birth month.

If not, then you can apply online at: www.ssa.gov

Email or call me for instructions if needed.

Medicare Exposures

Part A and B is called "Original Medicare" and provides you coverage for inpatient and outpatient care but alone it may expose you to potential high costs. Part A and B does not include Prescription Drug coverage (Part D).

- **Part A Deductible:** \$1600 per hospital visit. Hospital stays over 60 days = \$400+ per day.
- **Part B Deductible/Coinsurance:** \$226/year. Once met, Medicare pays 80% of covered care and you pay 20% coinsurance. There is no stop loss which can be concerning.
- **Dental, vision, and hearing:** Not covered except in rare cases.
- **Prescriptions:** Not covered by Part A and B but is offered in the options outlined next.

What about Part D?

Part D is prescription drug coverage. If you do not have Part D, you may incur lifelong penalties. There are a couple ways to get Part D.

Option 1: Medicare Supplement (Medigap)

Plans such as F, G, or N are popular options. These plans have additional monthly premiums. Medigap plans are accepted wherever "Original Medicare" is accepted. Medigap plans act as secondary payers to the primary payer Original Medicare.

Plan G Example: Jill has outpatient surgery at a facility which accepts Original Medicare. The surgery costs \$50,000.

Original Medicare pays \$40,000. Plan G pays \$10,000. Jill pays: \$0 or \$226 deductible if she hasn't met it yet.

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Option 2: Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C)

These plans are often low to no additional premium cost plans that include Part D, dental, vision, hearing, and other benefits above and beyond what Option 1 offers.

Medicare Advantage or Part C plans are structured differently than Original Medicare and Medigap.

If you opt for Part C, you follow the plan's structure instead of the 80/20% split mentioned earlier. Medicare Advantage plans have set copays and coinsurance for each type of covered care. They also have set max out of pocket limits which provides you more safety than Original Medicare by itself.

Medicare Advantage plans are usually offered as an HMO or PPO plan.

HMO requires you to see providers in-network and usually requires referrals from your primary care provider.

PPO plans have in and out-of-network coverage which provides more flexibility. Referrals are typically not required with PPO plans.

Which one should you choose?

There are two options, but those two options can have hundreds of plans. This is why having an agent like me is helpful. We will do a needs-based analysis and I will outline several options while providing pros and cons to each selection.

Why Choose me as your Agent?

- My services are at no cost as I am paid through insurance companies at allowable Medicare rates.
- I am a one stop shop and can help you compare with an unbiased approach.
- I am a 12-year veteran and pride myself on integrity. I always give my honest opinion and I always act in your best interest.

I hope you found value in this guide. Allow me to be your resource while you navigate through the Medicare process. Please reach out with any questions by text, call, or email.

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Book on my calendar:

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