

Who gets Medicare and when?

Medicare is our country's health insurance program for people age 65 or older and for the disabled under 65. It helps with the cost of health care, but it doesn't cover everything.

Do I need it? Everyone gets Part A automatically and it is free. But, the question is, do you need Part B yet? If you are still working, you may not. You can save the Part B premium if you can remain covered by your spouse's employer.

On the other hand, if you don't remain covered or if you are retiring, Part B can be very helpful. Below is a brief description of the 4 parts of Medicare.



How to sign up for Medicare

Are you already receiving Social Security income?

Relax! Your Medicare card will automatically come around 3 months before the month you turn 65.

Not receiving Social Security income yet?

Here's what you need to do to start your Medicare:

Web

Go to www.ssa.gov and sign up. Click the link on the left-hand column that says, "Apply online for Medicare" and follow the instructions.

Phone

Call 800-772-1213 to sign up over the phone OR you can make a face-to-face appointment at your local Social Security office.

+ Part A – Hospital Coverage

Cost: \$0

Description: Part A covers inpatient care in hospitals. Think of Part A as the part of Medicare that covers the "room and board" at the hospital.

Benefit: After meeting a sizable deductible for each stay, 100% is covered thereafter.

+ Part B – Medical Coverage

Cost: There is a monthly fee that varies from year to year.

Description: Part B covers your Doctor bills whether in or out of the hospital. Check-ups, surgeons, stitches, ambulance and various tests are just a few examples.

Benefit: After paying a small deductible per year, Part B covers 80% thereafter of the Medicare allowable bills. (*Tip: Ask us about the difference between the allowable bill and the actual bill*)

+ Part C – Medicare Advantage plans

This is an optional "all inclusive" type of coverage. See the full description on the Medicare Advantage document on our CMCretirement.com website. Just click on "Supplements" and then click on "Medicare Advantage".

+ Part D – Prescription Drug Coverage

Cost: The cost will vary from plan to plan depending on the drugs you take.

Description: Sometimes called PDPs, these plans add drug coverage to your choice of health (hospital/medical) coverage.

Benefit: Initially, your plan may cover 75% or more of your covered drugs. There can be deductibles, co-pays and even some gaps through the year, so ask lots of questions!

+ What's next?

We make Medicare look easy, help you understand insurance options and help give options for the right PDP.

Keep reviewing the documents or videos from our website at www.CMCretirement.com and then call us at **800-489-1921** or 426-1921, locally, to speak to our experienced agents.