

# What is Medicare?

Your **Medicare**, Simplified.  
Education ▶ Guidance ▶ Enrollment



Medicare is a federal program providing individual health insurance for:

- People 65+
- Individuals under 65 with disabilities (incl. ESRD and ALS)

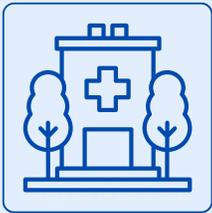
**(440) 622 2112**  
steve@medstar.agency  
www.medstar.agency

## A Glance at Medicare Parts

Start here

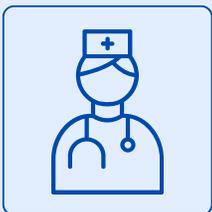
**Original Medicare**

**Part A**  
Hospital



and / or

**Part B**  
Medical



**AEP**

Alternative

**Part C**  
Medicare Advantage

Combines Part A & B and often Part D.



- + Convenient all-in-one coverage.
- + May offer additional benefits.
- + Often lower out-of-pocket costs.
- Network restrictions may apply.
- May require referrals for specialists.
- Plan benefits can change annually.

**Part D**  
Prescriptions

If there is no Part D, you can usually add one.



Add-Ons

**Medigap**  
Medicare Supplement

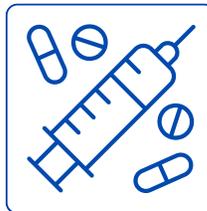
If you have both Parts, A & B.



- + No network restrictions: See any doctor accepting Medicare.
- + Predictable costs: Covers out-of-pocket expenses like deductibles.
- + Nationwide coverage: Works when traveling in the U.S.
- No drug coverage: Requires a separate Part D plan.
- Higher premiums: Typically higher than Medicare Advantage.
- No extra benefits: Lacks dental, vision, or hearing coverage.

**Part D**  
Prescriptions

If you have Part A or B or both.



Covers prescription drug costs. Essential for those with Original Medicare or Medigap. Helps manage the high cost of medications. Important for individuals with multiple prescriptions. Compare costs for your medications. Check the plan's formulary (list of covered drugs).

**Ancillary insurance plans, e.g.** hospital indemnity, critical illness, long-term care, dental/vision/hearing.

Original Medicare has coverage gaps leading to out-of-pocket expenses, but they can be filled with Part C and/or Add-Ons.

Time to Enroll

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Open Enrollment Period

Special Enrollment Period

ANOC

Annual Enrollment

## Enrollment

Your **Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)** lasts **7 months**—starting 3 months before, including the month of, and ending 3 months after your 65th birthday.



### Do You Need to Enroll during IEP?

- **If you have credible group insurance**, you are not required to enroll in Medicare during your IEP, but you can if you choose to.
- **If you're receiving Social Security benefits** at least four months before your 65th birthday, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B. If you do not want Part B, you must manually opt out.
- **If you're receiving SSDI**, you will be automatically enrolled in Parts A and B after 24 months on SSDI.
- **If none of the above applies to you**, you must manually apply for Medicare.

### Enroll early to avoid Penalties!

Delaying enrollment in Part B or Part D without other creditable coverage may result in late enrollment penalties (LEP).

- **Part B:** 10% penalty for each full 12-month period you go without coverage.
- **Part D:** 1% of the average national premium for each uncovered month.

## Turning 65 soon? Follow this Roadmap:

### Step 1: Gather the Necessary Information

1. Decide when to take Social Security benefits and retire.
2. Call Social Security to check Medicare Part A & B eligibility and your worked quarters.
3. Know when your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP) begins and ends based on you DOB.
4. Are you or your spouse still working? Will you have credible group coverage that coordinates with Medicare after turning 65?
5. List your healthcare providers (doctors, specialists, hospitals).
6. Write down your current medications, including dosages and frequency.

*Start with Step 1 about six months before your 65th birthday.*

### Step 2: Identify Your Preferences

- Do you prefer a plan with lower premiums or lower out-of-pocket costs?
- Are you looking for extra benefits like gym memberships or telehealth?
- Do you want flexibility in choosing doctors and hospitals?
- Think whether you need extra coverage:
  - Dental, vision, or hearing care
  - Hospital indemnity
  - Cancer or critical illness policies

### Step 3: Contact Medstar Agency

1. Call or email Medstar Agency to schedule a free consultation.
2. Bring your gathered information to the meeting.
3. During the meeting, we will:
  - Review your budget and healthcare priorities.
  - Discuss Medicare premiums.
  - Analyze deductibles, copayments, and out-of-pocket maximums.
  - Compare available plans to identify the best options for you.
  - Help you enroll in your chosen plan.

### Need help along the way? Contact us.

*We are here to simplify Medicare for you!*

Steven Almeroth  
**(440) 622 2112**  
steve@medstar.agency



Your **Medicare**, Simplified.  
Education ▶ Guidance ▶ Enrollment