

A woman with short, grey hair is smiling and looking down at a white smartphone she is holding in her hands. She is wearing a blue and white striped sweater. In the foreground, there is a black and white patterned mug and a pair of red-rimmed glasses on a table. A laptop is partially visible on the left. The background is a bright, out-of-focus window.

Get to know  
the basics  
about Medicare







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# We're here to help you be your healthy best.

We've put together this guide to help you understand the basics about Medicare – the federal government program that provides healthcare coverage to seniors and people with disabilities. Please take a look and let us know if you have any questions along the way.

Our Moda Health Medicare experts are ready to answer your questions. Just call **844-274-9122**. TTY users, dial 711.

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# What is Medicare?

Medicare comes in different options. You have five options for Medicare coverage: Part A, Part B, Part C, Part D and Medicare Supplement.



## Part A and Part B

Part A and Part B are also called Original Medicare. Both are administered by the federal government. With Part A and Part B, you can see healthcare providers throughout the U.S. who accept Medicare patients.

Part A and Part B both provide basic coverage, but **do not include**:

- Most outpatient prescription drugs
- Hearing aids and fitting exam
- Routine vision exams and eyeglasses
- Routine annual physical exams with lab tests
- Dental care and dentures
- Travel outside the U.S. with limited exceptions
- Naturopathic services
- Medical transport services (not by ambulance)



## Part C

Part C is also called Medicare Advantage. It is the private option for Part A and Part B. You can get Part C through private insurers. Part C plans cover all of Original Medicare's benefits plus some extra benefits that Part A and Part B do not cover.

Some of these benefits may include vision, hearing, dental, and other health and wellness programs.

Medicare Advantage plans limit your annual out-of-pocket costs for medical services. Once you reach your annual out-of-pocket maximum, you will not pay anything for covered medical services for the rest of the year.

Medicare Advantage plans have specific coverage areas. You can only enroll in the plans that are available where you live (your permanent residence).

To enroll in Part C, you must also already have Medicare Part A and Part B.

If you enroll in a Medicare Advantage HMO, HMO-POS, or PPO plan, with or without prescription drug coverage, you cannot enroll in a standalone Part D plan. If you do, you will be disenrolled from your Medicare Advantage plan and be put on Original Medicare.



Be sure to enroll in Medicare when you first become eligible. See why on pages 10 and 11.





## Part D

Part D is prescription drug coverage. You can get Part D by:

- Enrolling in a Medicare Advantage plan that offers prescription drug coverage
- Joining a stand-alone prescription drug plan from a private insurer

To enroll in Part D, you must also already have Medicare Part A and/or Part B.



## Medicare Supplement

Medicare Supplement is also called Medigap. Just like its name, Medicare Supplement supplements Original Medicare. With this type of coverage, Medicare always pays first. Medicare Supplement comes in 12 standard plans that usually only include Medicare-covered services.

Medicare Supplement is sold by private carriers. To apply for Medicare Supplement, you must also already have Medicare Part A and Part B.





# Which Medicare option is right for you?

When you consider your Medicare plan options, you may want to think about the following:

- Your lifestyle, priorities and health needs, including chronic conditions
- Your current coverage. Is it from an employer or retiree plan?
- Prescription drug coverage
- Whether or not you need coverage for services that Original Medicare does not cover
- How often you travel
- Whether or not you live in another state for part of the year



Before you choose a Medicare option, be sure to consider any current coverage you may have. Learn more on page 12.



## Original Medicare



### Part A Hospital insurance

Basic hospital coverage that is administered by the federal government



### Part B Medical insurance

Basic medical coverage that is administered by the federal government

## Medicare Advantage



### Part C Medicare Advantage

Coverage from private insurers that includes Original Medicare's benefits plus extra benefits



### Part D (voluntary) Prescription Drug Coverage

Drug coverage offered from private insurers



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Drug coverage offered from private insurers



### Medicare Supplement (optional)

Additional coverage to original Medicare. This coverage is offered from private insurers.



# What's the difference between Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid?



## Medicare

Medicare is health insurance for people age 65 or older and people with disabilities.



## Social Security

Social Security is the pension program for people age 62 or older and those with disabilities.



## Medicaid

Medicaid is a state program that provides healthcare for people with limited income and resources.

To learn more about each program, visit [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).



**Extra Help** is a Medicare program that helps people with lower incomes pay for some Medicare prescriptions. Those who qualify can get help with their monthly plan premium, yearly deductible, coinsurance and copayments. You can see if you qualify for **Extra Help** by contacting Social Security at **800-772-1213** or **800-325-0778** (TTY users).







# Time to enroll in Medicare?

You can enroll in Medicare during your initial enrollment period, which is three months before your 65th birthday, your birthday month and three months after. If you are under age 65, you may be able to enroll if you have a qualifying event.



It's important to find out if you can delay enrollment without paying a penalty. See page 11.

If you are working now and are covered by your employer or your spouse's employer, the size of the employer determines whether you can delay enrollment without paying the penalty:

**If the employer has less than 20 employees**, and you enroll in Part A and Part B during your initial enrollment period, Medicare will pay before your other coverage. It is best to enroll as soon as you are eligible. If you do not, you may have to pay a Part B late enrollment penalty and have a gap in coverage.

**If the employer has 20 or more employees**, talk with your benefits administrator. Ask if they have group health plan coverage as defined by the IRS. If they do, you may be able to delay enrolling in Part A and Part B without paying a lifetime late enrollment penalty.

**If you are getting retiree coverage from an employer**, you should sign up for Part A and Part B as soon as you are eligible

**If you have marketplace or other private insurance**, you should sign up when you are first eligible and drop your other insurance so that it stops when your Medicare coverage starts

You have **eight months** after employer coverage ends to enroll without paying a penalty. This is true whether or not you choose COBRA.



# Eligibility and timing

Depending on your circumstances, there are different time periods when you can enroll in Medicare.

## Initial enrollment period

You can enroll in Medicare Advantage during your initial enrollment period, which is three months before your 65th birthday, your birthday month and three months after. If you are under age 65, you may be able to enroll if you have a qualifying event. It's important that you know that there may be penalties if you do not enroll. If you decide to delay enrollment, you may have to pay a lifetime late enrollment penalty.

## Special enrollment period

If you have a qualifying event, you may qualify for special enrollment. You can use special enrollment to enroll in Medicare or make changes to your existing Medicare coverage. Qualifying events can include:

- Losing current insurance or drug coverage
- Anytime you have a chance to get coverage from an employer, union or program
- There are other qualifying events for the special enrollment period. To learn more, visit [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

## Annual enrollment period

If you are already enrolled in Medicare Advantage or a stand-alone prescription drug plan; you can make changes to your coverage during the annual enrollment period. Annual enrollment is Oct. 15 – Dec. 7 every year. During annual enrollment:

Eligible beneficiaries can

- Enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan
- Change Medicare Advantage plans
- Return to Original Medicare and add a Medicare Supplement plan



### Please know:

There may be penalties if you do not enroll in Medicare when you first become eligible. If you decide to delay enrollment, you may have to pay a lifetime late enrollment penalty.

## Open enrollment period

If you are already enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, you can make changes to your coverage from Jan. 1 to March 31 every year. (You can only make one change during this period.)

Medicare Advantage members can:

- Change Medicare Advantage plans
- Return to Original Medicare and add a Medicare Supplement plan. If you apply for a Medicare Supplement plan outside a guaranteed issue period, Underwriting may be required.

General & open  
enrollment  
period



Annual  
enrollment  
period





# How to enroll

If you have not applied for Social Security benefits, you will need to contact Social Security to sign up for Medicare. If you have applied for, or are already receiving Social Security or Railroad Retirement Board benefits, you will receive a Medicare card and packet in the mail three months before your 65th birthday.

## **Getting Part A and Part B — Original Medicare**

You can sign up for Part A and Part B during the initial enrollment period. Most people should enroll in Part A at this time. You can delay enrolling in Part B, but you may have to pay a higher premium.

Most beneficiaries can enroll in Part A without having to pay a monthly premium, but if you enroll in Part B, you will need to pay the monthly premium.

To sign up for Part A and Part B, you will need to contact the Social Security office. You can apply online at [ssa.gov](https://ssa.gov). You can also visit a local office.

## **Getting Part D — prescription drug coverage**

If you have already enrolled in Original Medicare, Part A or Part B, you will need to decide whether or not you would like prescription drug coverage. If you know you will need Part D, it's best to get it during your initial enrollment period so that you avoid a late penalty. If you did not enroll in Part D during your initial enrollment period, you can enroll during the annual enrollment period, which is Oct. 15 – Dec. 7.

## **Getting Part C — Medicare Advantage**

To search for and enroll in Part C plans, you can visit [medicare.gov](https://medicare.gov). You can also contact private insurers directly.

## **Getting Medicare Supplement**

You can buy Medicare Supplement within the six-month period after you turn 65 and are enrolled in Part B.



If you know you will need Part D, prescription drug coverage, it's best to get it during your initial enrollment period so that you avoid a late penalty.







To learn more, visit **[modamedicare.com](https://modamedicare.com)**