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Medicare: Getting Started

If you're nearing retirement age or over 65 and still working, you may have questions about Medicare, a federal health insurance program. A Medicare health plan is offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide Part A and Part B benefits to people with Medicare who enroll in the plan. Medicare health plans include all Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Cost Plans and Medicare Part D drug coverage.

Here is a closer look at the four types of Medicare:

- **1. Medicare Part A** helps cover inpatient care in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and hospice and home health care. Generally, there is no monthly premium if you qualify and paid Medicare taxes while working.
- **2. Medicare Part B** helps cover medical services like doctors' services, outpatient care and other medically necessary services that Part A doesn't cover. You need to enroll in Medicare Part B and pay a monthly premium determined by your income, along with a deductible.

Many people also purchase a supplemental insurance policy, such as a **Medigap plan**, to handle any Part A and B coverage gaps.

3. Medicare Advantage Plans, also known as Medicare Part C, are combination plans managed by private insurance companies approved by Medicare. They typically are a combination of Part A, Part B and To find Medicare plans in your area, call 800-MEDICARE or visit www.medicare.gov for more resources.

sometimes Part D coverage, but must cover medically necessary services. These plans have discretion to assign their own copays, deductibles and coinsurance.

4. Medicare Part D is prescription drug coverage, and is available to everyone with Medicare. It is a separate plan provided by private Medicare-approved companies, and you must pay a monthly premium.

Getting Started

Medicare sends you a questionnaire about three months before you are entitled to Medicare coverage. Your answers to these questions, including whether you have group health insurance through an employer or family member, help Medicare set up your file and make sure your claims are paid correctly.

Coverage and Costs Change Yearly

Medicare health plans and prescription drug plans can change costs and coverage each year. Always review your plan materials for the coming year to make sure your plan will meet your needs for the following year. If you're satisfied that your current plan will meet your needs for next year, you don't need to do anything.

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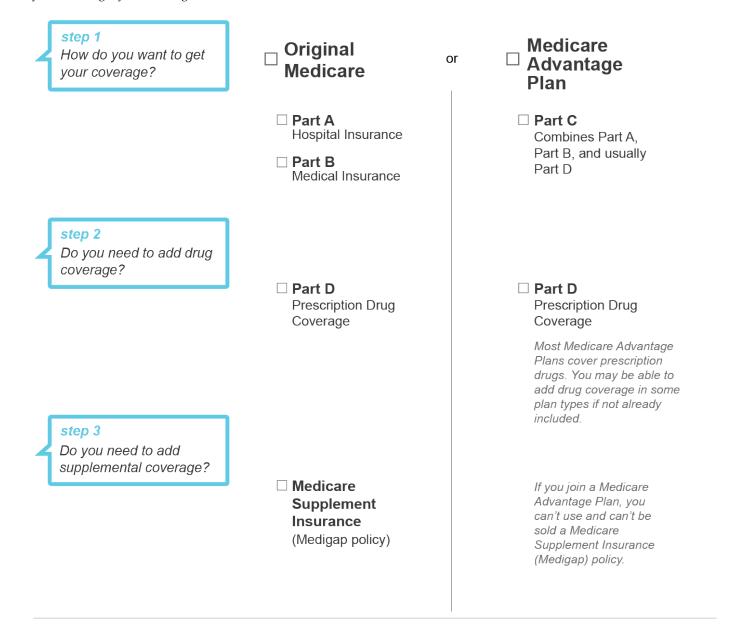
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More Information

Visit www.medicare.gov to get detailed information about the Medicare health and prescription drug plans in your area, find participating health care providers and suppliers, get quality of care information and more.

What are my Medicare Coverage Choices?

There are two main ways to get your Medicare coverage—Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan. Use the following chart to help you decide how you want to get your coverage. The following content is from sources believed to be reliable. However, information accuracy cannot be guaranteed and is subject to change at any time without notice. Content provided herein is for informational purposes only and should not be used or construed as investment advice or a recommendation regarding the purchase or sale of any security or the implementation of any particular investment strategy. There is no guarantee that these statements, opinions or forecasts provided herein will prove to be correct. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. All investing involves risk, including the potential for loss of principal. There is no guarantee that any strategy will be successful.



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