

Ready, Set, Retire
Welcome to Medicare

presented by
Iowa SHIP-SMP





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www.shiip.iowa.gov

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SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program)
SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol)

Medicare counseling, education, and outreach

- Iowa Insurance Division
- trained & certified volunteer counselors throughout Iowa

SHIP/SMP services are

- free
- confidential
- objective

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Today, we will cover:


- Medicare eligibility & enrollment
- Medicare coverage & costs
- Medicare choices & options
- Medicare reminders & resources




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Medicare eligibility

- when you turn 65
- on 25th month of disability benefits (under age 65)
 - except for people with ALS or ESRD (their benefits start earlier)



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Medicare enrollment

handled by the **Social Security Administration** (except railroad retirees use **Railroad Retirement Board**)

- You will be **automatically enrolled** into Medicare Part A & Part B if you are drawing Social Security benefits
- Otherwise, you enroll yourself through the Social Security Administration (in-person or at www.ssa.gov)




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What is the difference?

MEDICARE PART A	MEDICARE PART B	MEDICARE PART D
Hospital Insurance	Medical Insurance	Prescription Drug Coverage Insurance
Covers inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing care, home health care, and hospice care	Covers doctors' services, outpatient hospital care, durable medical equipment, home health care, and other services	Provides coverage through private insurance plans that you choose at the time of enrollment in Parts A and B

Medicare coverage involves different parts

(There is also **Part C** – Medicare Advantage)




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Medicare costs: What are you responsible for paying?

Part A*	Part B*	Part C*	Part D
deductible & copays based on length of facility stay	monthly premium & 20% of services	copay amounts depending on the plan	monthly premium and copays (depending on prescriptions & pharmacy)

*Part A & B deductibles, coinsurance & copays can be covered by a Medicare supplement



*Part C plans (Medicare Advantage) are an option for receiving Medicare A, B & D benefits




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Medicare enrollment starts with Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)

- 3 months before to 3 months after your birth month
- Any enrollments done within the first 3 months of your IEP will start the month you turn 65
- Any enrollments done after that will start at the beginning of the following month





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You may not need to enroll in all parts of Medicare (A, B & D) during your Initial Enrollment Period

- **active employment** (you or spouse) is usually the main reason to delay Medicare enrollment
 - employer coverage is PRIMARY (and Medicare is secondary) if you are turning 65 and employer has 20+ employees
- also depends if you have *creditable drug coverage* (prescription coverage that's as good as Medicare's)



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Delaying Medicare – You can delay:

- Part B** if you have **active employer** coverage (you or spouse)
 - 20+ employees
 - Save yourself the Part B monthly premium
 - If you are automatically enrolled in Medicare A & B, follow instructions on back of card to decline medical insurance for now
 - Or if you are enrolling yourself, enroll in Part A only for now
- Part D** if you have drug coverage that's as good as Medicare's
 - Keep any proof of current drug coverage (ex: employer documents)
 - To delay Part D, skip drug plan enrollment for now



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Then, when employer coverage ends, you have a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to...

- Enroll in **Part A** (if not already enrolled) & **Part B** through Social Security Administration
 - If you are adding Part B, **you need to submit a couple forms** to SSA proving previous employer coverage
 - You have up to 8 months to add Part B without penalty
- Enroll in a **Part D** (drug) plan through Medicare, a SHIIP counselor, or an insurance agent
 - You have up to 2 months to enroll in a drug plan without penalty



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Once your Medicare Part B starts, you can choose a Medicare "path"

Original Medicare (Parts A & B)
+ Medicare supplement
+ Part D plan

or Medicare Advantage (Part C)



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Even with Original Medicare...

...there are still "gaps" in how much Medicare covers

- leftover deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments – Parts A & B
- Medicare supplement can cover those gaps
- 10 standardized policies sold by private insurance companies
 - A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L, M or N
 - These are different than the State-offered supplement programs F & N
- Guaranteed renewable as long as you pay the monthly premium



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Medicare supplement options

Ten Standard Medicare Supplement Plans										Medicare Eligible Before 2020	
Basic Benefits	Plan A	Plan B	Plan D	Plan G*	Plan K	Plan L	Plan M	Plan N	Plan C	Plan F**	
Part A Hospital											
Day 61-90 Coinsurance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Day 91-150 Coinsurance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
365 more days - 100%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Part A Hospice coinsurance	X	N	N	N	50%	75%	X	X	X	X	
Part B Coinsurance or Copay	X	X	X	X	50%***	75%***	X	X****	X	X	
Part A, B & D Blood†	X	X	X	X	50%	75%	X	X	X	X	
Additional Benefits	A	B	D	G	K	L	M	N	C	F	
Skilled Nursing Facility Coinsurance (Day 21-100)			X	X	50%	75%	X	X	X	X	
Part A Deductible (Day 21-100)		X	X	X	50%	75%	50%	X	X	X	
Part B Deductible					X				X	X	
Part B Excess					X				X	X	
Foreign Travel Emergency			X	X			X	X	X	X	
Out-of-pocket annual limit					7,220***	3,610***					

X = Supplement pays 100%, 50% and 75% = the amount the supplement pays
 * Plans F and G have an option called high deductible Plan F or high deductible Plan G. The deductible is \$2,870 in 2025.
 ** Plans K and L pay 100% of the Part B coinsurance for preventive services.
 *** Plans K and L pay 100% of your cost for Part A and B after the annual out-of-pocket limit is reached.
 **** Exceptions: You pay up to \$20 for an office visit and up to \$50 for an emergency room visit before the plan pays. The emergency room copay will be waived if you are admitted to the hospital.

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Guarantee Issue Medicare Supplement Open Enrollment

- Available at age 65 or older
- Triggered when Medicare Part B starts
 - This is another reason not to activate Part B if you're still working & employer coverage is primary
- Lasts six months from Part B effective date
- Can't be turned down
- Pay "preferred" premium


This is a ONE-TIME opportunity



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Other possible supplements (to Original Medicare)

- Retiree health plan from employer
 - *Retiree insurance is always secondary to Medicare*
- State assistance (Medicaid, QMB)
- TRICARE/TRICARE for Life
- Indian Health Services/tribal medical benefits




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With Original Medicare & a supplement, you also need to pick drug (Part D) coverage

select from the available options in Iowa




based on your prescriptions & preferred pharmacy

Part D plans (& plan options) change annually




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2025 Part D (drug) Coverage

 Deductible	up to \$590 (depends on plan)
 Initial Coverage	copay until you reach \$2,000 out-of-pocket maximum*
 Catastrophic Coverage	so for covered prescriptions through end of calendar year



*Copay amount depends on the plan & the prescription.
*Only prescriptions covered by the plan count into \$2,000 maximum.



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Choosing a Medicare prescription drug plan

What is the monthly premium & yearly deductible?	Are all my prescriptions covered in plan's formulary?	What copayments will I be responsible for?
Is my insulin covered at \$35/month? (new benefit in 2023!)	What pharmacies are preferred or offer the best costs?	Are there any plan restrictions for my medications?



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What about a Medicare Advantage plan?

offers a different "path" for your Medicare coverage

Medicare Advantage plans:

- are offered through a private company (contracted by Medicare)
- provide Medicare-covered Part A & B services & usually drug coverage
- usually have \$0 premium and then you pay copays for services
- include out-of-pocket maximum for A & B services
- may offer extra benefits like dental, vision, or hearing allowances
- use provider networks
- require pre-authorizations or referrals for some services

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Medicare Advantage plan "Trial Right"

If you enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan **for the first time**, you have 12 months to "try it out"

- If you disenroll within those 12 months*, you can sign up for a Medicare supplement without underwriting

*If you are 65+, you might have to time your disenrollment with another Medicare enrollment period during the year




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**Wrapping up:
Medicare reminders &
resources**




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**Create an online Medicare account
at www.medicare.gov**

- Review Medicare claims & Medicare Summary Notices
- Check your Part B deductible status
- Manage your drug & pharmacy lists
- Compare Medicare Advantage or prescription plans yearly
- Track preventive services





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Prevent Health Care Fraud





- 1) Protect** – Treat your Medicare & Social Security like a credit card. Never give these numbers to a stranger.
- 2) Detect** – Review your Medicare statements for mistakes by comparing them to your personal records.
- 3) Report** – If you think you have been a target of fraud, report it!




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Check what preventive services are covered

Medicare Part B covers preventive services

- bone mass measurement
- screening for lung or prostate cancer, diabetes, or cardiovascular disease
- mammograms, etc.

Medicare Part B & Part D cover vaccinations

- COVID-19, Hepatitis B, flu, pneumonia, shingles, TDAP, RSV



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Review plans during the (Annual) Open Enrollment Period

October 15th to December 7th every year

- Enroll in a drug or Medicare Advantage plan
- Switch prescription drug or Medicare Advantage plans
- Change from Original Medicare and a prescription drug plan to a Medicare Advantage plan (or vice versa)
- Decide to keep your current coverage



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How to contact SHIIP-SMP

Call 1-800-351-4664
statewide consumer line
(TTY 1-800-735-2942)

Email shiip@iid.iowa.gov

Visit our website
www.shiip.iowa.gov

Like us on Facebook

Iowa Senior Health Insurance Information Program & Medicare Patrol



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**Another reason to contact SHIP-SMP:
Become a volunteer!**

Our volunteers are trained & certified to help other Iowans navigate Medicare

- One-on-one counseling
- Group presentations (if interested)
- Answer questions
- Run plan comparisons

Contact us for more information