

# Medicare

## What is Medicare?

- The Nation's largest health insurance program, Medicare provides high-quality health care to:
  - People age 65 and older
  - People under age 65 with certain disabilities
  - All people with end-stage renal disease
- Administered by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS)-Has 4 Parts:
  - A & B – managed by the federal government and referred to as Original Medicare
  - C & D – offered by private insurance companies with an approved Medicare contract.

## What does Original Medicare Cover? (Parts A & B)

- Part A - There is no premium for Part A, you contributed to Medicare by paying taxes while you worked. However, there are deductibles and copays you will be responsible for paying. (Many people purchase a Medicare Supplement to pay those costs.)
  - Hospital – In-Patient
  - Skilled Nursing Facility Care
  - Hospice Care
  - Some home healthcare
- Part B – There is a premium for Part B. There are also deductible and copay responsibilities. (Many people choose to purchase a Medicare Supplement or “Gap” plan to pay these costs.)
  - For Most individuals the monthly premium is \$104.90. Some people pay more based on their income.

## What is not covered by Original Medicare?

- Deductible for Part A
- Hospital copay – days 61-90
- Skilled Nursing Facility copays Days 21-100
- Annual Hearing Exams
- Dental Services
- Prescription Drugs

## Medigap – Medicare Supplement Plans:

- Health insurance policies that are sold by private insurance companies
- Supplements cover medical benefit “gaps” such as Part A & Part B deductible and coinsurance.
- There are 11 standardized plans (A, B, C, D, F and High Deductibles F, G, K, L, M, N)
- Does not include Part D prescription drugs

- Part D – Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage
  - Offered by private health insurance companies with an approved Medicare contract
  - Helps to cover prescription drug costs:
    - Stand-alone plan
    - Medicare Advantage Plans
    - Extra help is available for beneficiaries with limited income and resources
  
- Part C – Medicare Advantage Plans
  - Offered by private health insurance companies with an approved Medicare Contract
  - Must have Part A & Part B to enroll
  - Must continue to pay Part B premium
  - May require using specific network providers
  - Advantage Plans combine Part A (hospital) and Part B (Medical) plus add on benefits and features not covered by Part A and Part B

**What costs are paid by beneficiaries?**

- Part B Premium + Part C premium (if applicable)
- Medical Coverage: Copays until maximum out-of-pocket is met (varies by plan)
- Prescription Coverage: May not be included in all plans; Copays and Coinsurance – vary by plan
- Medicare Advantage Plans may cost less than traditional Medicare + Medicare Supplement + Prescription drug plan, but there are out of pocket expenses in the Advantage Plans. An awareness of this is important in order to evaluate potential costs.

**When can I enroll in Medicare?**

- Initial Enrollment Period: 7 months surrounding 65<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Annual Enrollment Period: October 15 – December 7 for a January 1 effective date
- Special Enrollment Period: Specific events such as termination of employer coverage, moving to a different service area, or other specific events.

Medicare Supplements are available for enrollment all year-round. Medical underwriting may apply.

To learn more about Medicare Programs, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call Fran Lane 941-361-3057 for a complimentary consultation.