



Medicare Basics

Your starter guide to all things Medicare.

Your local Medicare partner

Aspirus Health Plan is here to help. We sort out Medicare so you don't have to.

Let's get started.



When it comes to Medicare, you have lots of options

But all those choices can make it hard to find the coverage that's best for you.

Aspirus Health Plan can help. This simple guide covers important basics you'll need to know, like:



The four parts of Medicare



What each part covers



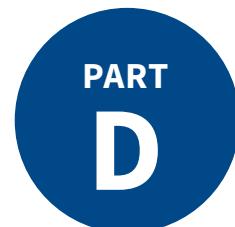
When to enroll in Medicare



How to avoid penalties

The four parts of Medicare

Each part covers different health care services



Part A: Original Medicare

Hospital insurance

What it covers

- ✓ Hospital stays
- ✓ Care in a skilled nursing facility
- ✓ Home health care
- ✓ Hospice care

Your out-of-pocket costs

- ✓ Copays
- ✓ Deductibles
- ✓ Coinsurance

Words to know

Copay

This is a set fee you pay when you visit your doctor or clinic or fill a prescription.

Coinsurance

You and your plan share the cost for some services. Coinsurance is the percentage of the cost you pay for a covered health care service.

Deductible

A deductible is the amount you pay for health care services before your plan begins to pay.

Monthly premium

This is the amount you pay each month for your health plan coverage.

Part B: Original Medicare

Medical insurance

What it covers

- ✓ Doctor visits
- ✓ Outpatient surgery
- ✓ Ambulance
- ✓ Medical equipment and supplies

Your out-of-pocket costs

- ✓ Monthly premiums
- ✓ Annual deductibles
- ✓ Coinsurance

Original Medicare covers a lot, but it won't pay for all the health care you may need.

If you only have Part A and Part B coverage, you'll pay the full cost for services Original Medicare doesn't cover, including:

- Preventive dental care and most other dental services
- Routine eye exams and eyewear
- Routine hearing exams and hearing aids
- Routine physical exams
- Fitness benefits
- Prescription drugs you may take at home
- Care in a skilled nursing facility without a qualifying 3-day hospital stay
- Most care you receive when traveling outside the U.S.

Part C: Medicare Advantage

Part C is also known as Medicare Advantage. These plans are offered by private health care companies such as Aspirus Health Plan. You can buy a Medicare Advantage plan to help pay for costs Original Medicare doesn't cover. These plans include all your Part A and Part B benefits along with many extras. Most offer Part D prescription drug coverage too.

What it covers

- ✓ Part A and Part B benefits
- ✓ Extras that may include vision, dental and fitness benefits
- ✓ Part D prescription drug coverage (most Medicare Advantage plans)

Your out-of-pocket costs

- ✓ Monthly premiums
- ✓ Copays
- ✓ Annual deductibles
- ✓ Coinsurance



Medicare Advantage plans are a popular choice for those who want the convenience of having all their health care benefits under one plan.

The “Advantages” of Medicare Advantage



Convenience

When you choose a Medicare Advantage plan that includes Part D prescription drug coverage, you get all your health benefits — and many extras — under one plan.



Financial protection

Medicare Advantage plans have an out-of-pocket maximum limit so you know how much you might have to pay in deductibles, copays and coinsurance in one year. Original Medicare doesn't have a limit.



Travel coverage

Some Medicare Advantage plans cover you anywhere in the U.S. Most also include emergency coverage worldwide.



Extras

Medicare Advantage plans may add benefits or programs like fitness benefits, dental benefits, eyewear and hearing aid benefits, over-the-counter spending allowance and more.

PART D

Part D: Prescription drug coverage

You can purchase Part D coverage from private health care companies to help cover the cost of your prescriptions.

What it covers

- ✓ Prescription drugs obtained through an in-network pharmacy

Your out-of-pocket costs

- ✓ Monthly premiums
- ✓ Copays
- ✓ Annual deductibles
- ✓ Coinsurance

There are two ways to get Part D



As part of a Medicare Advantage plan (MA-PD)



As a separate, stand-alone prescription drug plan (PDP)

How Part D works

Part D works differently from other parts of Medicare.

- ✓ Plans are different when it comes to the drugs they cover
- ✓ Before you enroll, check to make sure your medications are on the list of covered drugs (formulary)
- ✓ How much your plan pays for your prescriptions depends on what phase of coverage you are in
- ✓ Plans may include a deductible on some or all tiers. Before coverage begins, you'd need to pay for prescriptions in those tiers up to the deductible amount.

Standard benefits include three phases of coverage



Deductible



Initial coverage



Catastrophic coverage



You also may be able to get Extra Help to pay for your prescription drug costs.

Visit ssa.gov to see if you qualify.

If you don't sign up for a Part D plan or have credible drug coverage (e.g., VA benefits or SeniorCare Prescription Drug Assistance Program) when you are first eligible to do so, and you decide later you want to sign up, you may be required to pay a monthly late enrollment penalty equal to 1% of the national base beneficiary premium for every month you didn't have coverage.



SeniorCare Prescription Drug Assistance Program (SPAP)

Wisconsin's creditable drug coverage assistance program

- ✓ Low annual fee
- ✓ Coverage is based on income level

To qualify, you must be

- ✓ A Wisconsin resident
- ✓ A U.S. citizen or have qualifying immigrant status
- ✓ 65 years old or older

Visit dhs.wisconsin.gov/seniorcare for coverage details.

Medicare Supplement

Medicare Supplement plans, also called Medigap, pay some of the out-of-pocket costs that Original Medicare (Part A and Part B) doesn't cover. These plans are offered by private health care companies.

Medicare Supplement plan features

- ✓ Pays part or all of your deductibles, copays, coinsurance and other costs
- ✓ Portable: Keep your plan even if you live in another state for a few months or year-round
- ✓ Guaranteed renewable benefits: Your benefits won't change year to year and you can keep your plan as long as you pay your monthly premiums
- ✓ Medical coverage only. Does not include Medicare Part D coverage.



Medicare Supplement plans are a popular choice for those who plan to retire to another state and want to keep their same Medicare benefits when they move.

Compare plan types

Use the chart below to compare what types of benefits are typically covered with Original Medicare, Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage plans.

	Original Medicare	Medicare Supplement	Aspirus Health Plan Medicare Advantage
Premium (paid by enrollee)	Medicare Part B premium	Medicare Part B premium and plan premium	Medicare Part B premium and plan premium
Doctor and hospital visits	Typically covers 80% after you meet deductibles	Covers same or more than Original Medicare	Covers same or more than Original Medicare
Routine preventive care	X	\$120 maximum	✓
Medicare Part D outpatient prescription drug coverage	X	X	✓ Option with Medicare Part D
Dental, prescription eyewear and hearing aids	X	X	✓
Network	See any Medicare provider	See any Medicare provider	See any Medicare provider, in-network costs less
Skilled nursing facility — waive 3-day inpatient hospital stay requirement	X	X	✓
Yearly limit on out-of-pocket costs	X	Varies by plan	✓

Enrolling in Medicare

Just turning 65?

Most people become eligible for Medicare at age 65. If you're already receiving Social Security benefits, you'll automatically be enrolled. If not, you'll need to sign up.

You have seven months to sign up for Medicare when you first become eligible. This is your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP).



Three months before
your birthday month



Your birthday
month



Three months
after your
birthday month

Where to sign up

You enroll in Part A and Part B through Social Security.

- ✓ Online at ssa.gov
- ✓ By phone at 1.800.772.1213, 8 am – 7 pm, Monday – Friday
- ✓ In person at your local Social Security office

You can enroll in Part C Medicare Advantage, Part D or Medicare Supplement plans through private insurance companies only after you've enrolled in Original Medicare.

- ✓ You must have Part A and Part B before you can enroll in a Part C Medicare Advantage plan
- ✓ You must have Part A or Part B before you can enroll in Part D coverage
- ✓ You must have Part A and Part B before you can enroll in a Medicare Supplement plan

Delaying enrollment

You can wait to enroll in Medicare if you plan to keep working after age 65 and have coverage through your employer or your spouse's employer. If the employer has fewer than 20 employees, ask how their coverage works with Medicare.

If you wait to enroll in Part B and are not covered through an employer plan, you will only be able to sign up between January 1 and March 31 during the General Enrollment Period. Your coverage will begin the first day of the month after enrollment is accepted.

Late enrollment penalties

If you don't sign up for Part B and Part D when you first become eligible for Medicare, you may pay a penalty if you decide to sign up later.

Visit medicare.gov for details about penalties.

Things to consider as you shop for a plan

This simple checklist can help you keep track.

Be sure to compare plan features, costs and benefits as you shop.

	Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 3
What is the monthly premium?	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Does the plan include Part D prescription drug coverage?	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO
Are my medications included in the list of covered drugs?	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO
Are my doctors and clinics in the plan network?	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO
What is my copay for doctor and clinic visits?	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
What is my copay for prescriptions?	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Will the plan cover emergency care I receive outside the network and outside the U.S.?	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO
Will the plan help pay for my health club membership?	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO
Does the plan include dental benefits?	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO
Is my dentist in the plan network?	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO
Does the plan cover eye exams and eyewear?	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO
Does the plan cover hearing exams and hearing aids?	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO
Do my friends or family members recommend this plan?	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO



Keep learning with Aspirus

We're standing by to answer your questions.



Call

715.631.7441 | 1.866.839.6818

TTY 1.855.931.4852

or contact your local broker



Go online

To learn more about Aspirus Health Plan
Medicare Advantage plans, visit
medicare.aspirushealthplan.com.



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Aspirus Health Plan, Inc. is a PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Aspirus Health Plan, Inc. depends on contract renewal.

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