



MEDICARE 101 Guidebook

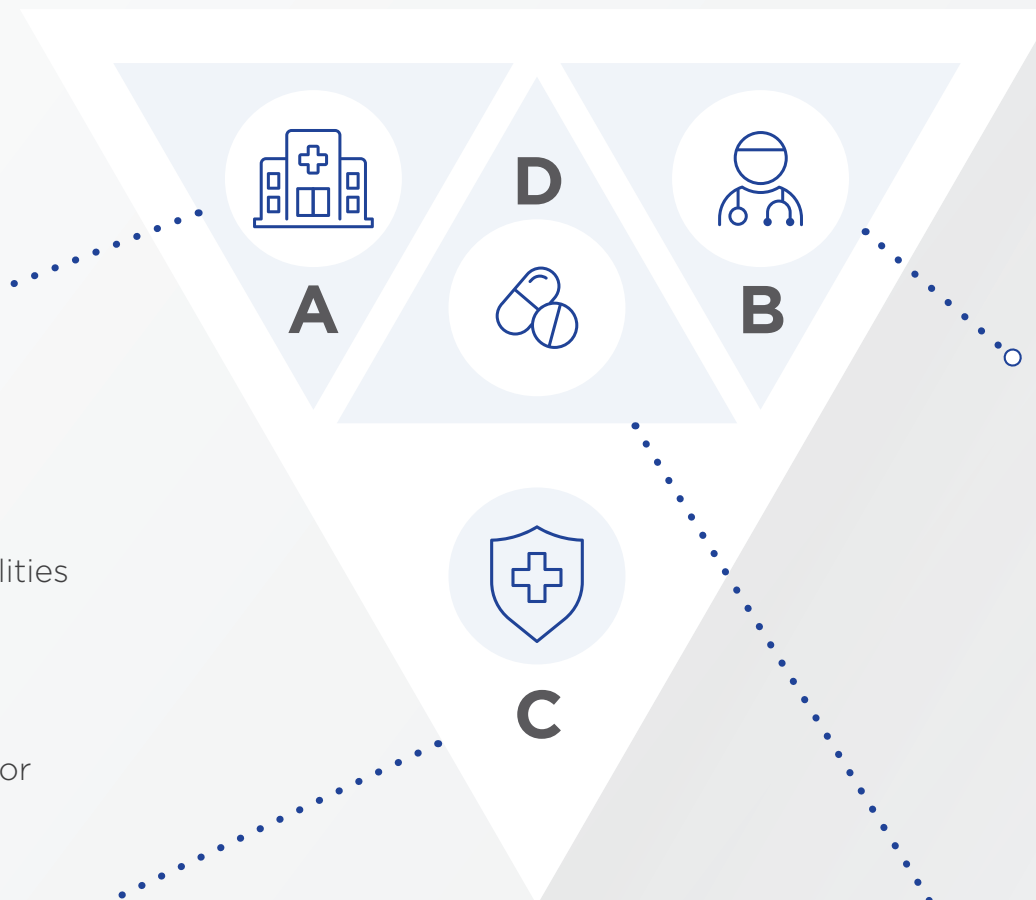
A Simple Guide to the Medicare Basics

Medicare is a federal health insurance program that gives you access to specific coverage and benefits. It also offers you a variety of coverage options. We created this guide to help you understand them.



The Parts of **MEDICARE**

Medicare has four basic parts that cover specific services. Get to know what they are, what they cover and what they cost.



Medicare **Part A**

→ Hospital insurance

- ✓ Covers: inpatient care
hospital & rehabilitation facilities
nursing facility
hospice
home health care

\$ Typically, you won't pay a premium for Medicare **Part A** — it's coverage you've already earned

Medicare **Part B**

→ Medical insurance

- ✓ Covers: doctors' services
hospital outpatient care
ambulance services
preventive services
and more

\$ You do pay a monthly premium for Medicare **Part B** coverage — usually, it comes out of your Social Security check

Medicare **Part C** aka Medicare **Advantage**

→ Combines **Part A**, **Part B** and often **Part D** coverage into one plan

- ✓ Typically includes extra services — like health and wellness, or dental, vision and hearing

\$ Offered by private insurance companies. You pay your **Part B** premium, and you may also pay a premium to the insurance company although the majority of consumers pay no additional premium

Part A + Part B

Called **Original** Medicare and provided by the federal government

Medicare **Part D**

→ Prescription drug coverage

- ✓ Only covers prescription drugs

\$ Offered by private insurance companies. You can add a **Part D** plan to your **Original** Medicare coverage, while typically paying a monthly plan premium to the insurance company

MEDICARE Coverage Options

Medicare gives you coverage options. Understanding them can help you choose one that's right for you.

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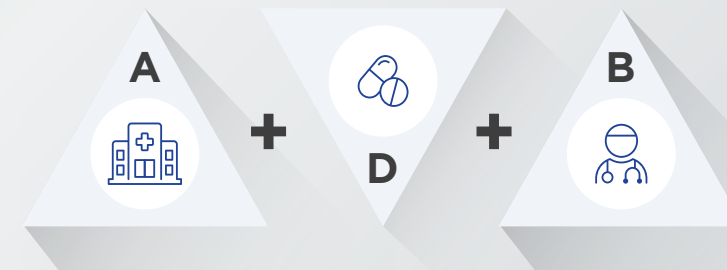
Original Medicare ONLY



Part A hospital and **Part B** medical insurance are provided by the federal government. They do not cover prescription drugs and do not limit out-of-pocket medical expenses.

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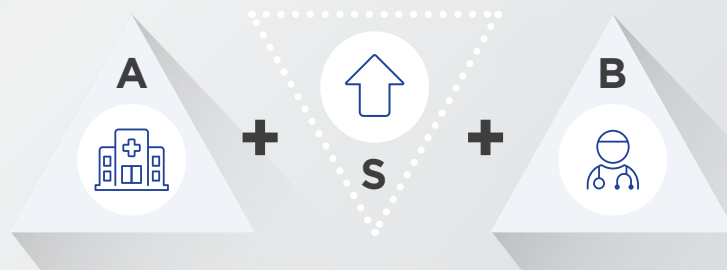
Add Medicare Part D



Part D, a prescription drug plan offered by a private insurer, adds stand-alone drug coverage to Original Medicare.

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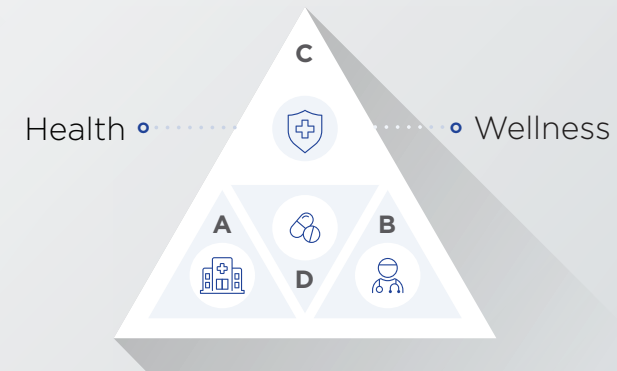
Add a Medicare Supplement



Extra insurance offered by private insurers to fill in some coverage gaps of **Original** Medicare. You can purchase a **Part D** plan separately to add prescription drug coverage.

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Medicare Advantage



Medicare **Advantage (Part C)**, offered by private insurers, combines **Parts A, B** and often **Part D** into one plan. It limits out-of-pocket medical expenses while adding extras like health and wellness.

MEDICARE Eligibility and Enrollment

To take full advantage of the benefits you've earned, you need to enroll in Medicare at the right time—and in the right way.

Who's eligible for Medicare?

You can enroll in Medicare if you:

- Are age 65 and older
- Are under age 65 and have certain disabilities
- Have End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)—permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a transplant

When can I enroll?

If you're like most people, you'll enroll in Medicare around the time you turn 65.

Your **Initial Enrollment Period**:

- Begins 3 months before your 65th birthday
- Includes the month you turn 65
- Ends 3 months after that birthday

If you don't sign up for Medicare during this period, you may have to pay **Part B** and **Part D** late enrollment penalties.



When can I change my coverage?

In addition to your Initial Enrollment Period, there are other times when you can enroll in or change plans:

Annual Enrollment Period

- Begins October 15 and ends December 7 each year
- Generally, the time when you can join or switch **Medicare Advantage** or **Part D** plan



Open Enrollment Period

- Begins January 1 and ends March 31 each year
- If you're in a **Medicare Advantage** plan, you can switch to a different **Medicare Advantage** plan
- You can go back to **Original Medicare** and, if needed, join a **Part D** plan



Special Enrollment Periods

- Typically reserved for times when certain events happen in your life
- Each Special Enrollment Period can have different rules
- Reasons for a Special Enrollment Period may include:
 - Changing where you live
 - Losing your current coverage
 - Your plan changes its contract

Choosing Your **MEDICARE** Coverage

As you consider which Medicare coverage option is right for you, take time to think about what you would value most from your plan.

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Start by making a list that includes:



- The doctors and providers you want to see
- Prescription drugs you're taking now or anticipate taking soon
- How much you can afford to spend each month on health care
- The lifestyle you're planning for, including travel

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Use your list to compare your options. Here are questions to ask as you consider each one:



- Can I continue to use my preferred doctors and hospitals?
- Are the benefits I need included in the plan?
- How much will I pay in premiums each month?
- What are the plan's co-pays and deductibles?
- Does the plan limit what I pay out-of-pocket each year?
- Are my prescription drugs covered, and if so, what do they cost?
- Is the plan a good fit for my lifestyle?

Thinking about your Medicare coverage options in this way can help you narrow down your options—and find a plan that fits your needs, budget and lifestyle.

We're Here to Help

Your Medicare choices can make a big difference

They can affect what coverage you receive, the cost of your prescription drugs, how much you pay out of pocket for medical expenses and more. That's why it's so important to find a plan that's right for you — the sooner, the better.

Our licensed representatives are ready to assist you

They can help simplify your Medicare choices by answering your questions and guiding you through your options. And they'll take time to listen and learn about your needs. Helping Americans make sense of Medicare is what they do best.

Don't wait to get the Medicare coverage you need

