



YOUR GUIDE TO MEDICARE ENROLLMENT

Explore the basics, and talk to your financial planner for help.

Medicare is federal health insurance for people 65 and older and individuals with certain disabilities. Original Medicare has two parts:

- 1 Medicare Part A:**
 - hospital inpatient care.
- 2 Medicare Part B:**
 - outpatient care (doctor's visits) and medical equipment.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Medicare Part A comes at no cost for most people, and Medicare Part B has a monthly premium based on your income. You're also responsible for deductibles, coinsurance and copays.

WHEN DO I SIGN UP?

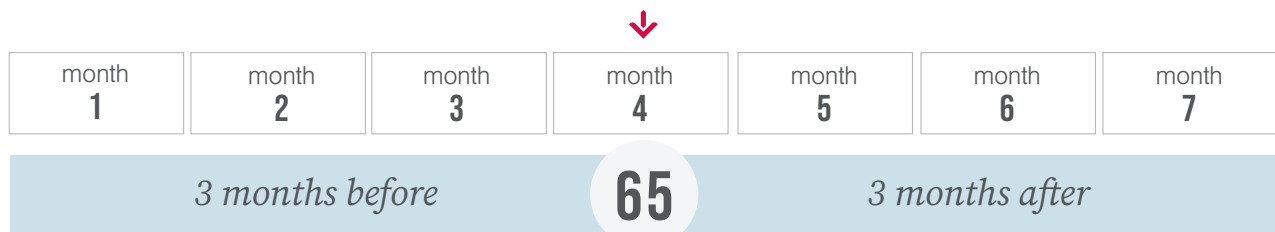
Generally, during your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP), which is 7 months long. Your IEP is your 65th birthday, plus the 3 months before and 3 months after.

GATHER THESE DETAILS FOR ENROLLMENT:

- ✔ Date and place of birth.
- ✔ Employment start and end dates for you or your spouse's current employer that includes your health insurance plan.
- ✔ Start and end dates for you or your spouse's employer-provided group health insurance plan.

The SSA provides a checklist <https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/isba/10/isba-checklist.pdf> for applying online for Medicare

Medicare Initial Enrollment Period The month you turn 65 years old



→ Is your birthday on the first of the month? Your IEP begins and ends one month earlier.

AVOID THE LATE ENROLLMENT PENALTY

If you miss your IEP, you may be subject to an ongoing penalty that increases Part B monthly premiums by 10% for every 12 months you're late in enrolling. You may also have to wait for the General Enrollment Period (Jan. 1-March 31). Again, we recommend applying for Medicare as soon as you're eligible to avoid the penalty.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Use the online application if you are within three months of turning age 65 or older, and if you are not ready to start monthly Social Security benefits:

- Visit the SSA's Medicare Benefits website <https://www.ssa.gov/medicare> and select "Apply for Medicare" button.
- You will need to create a "my Social Security" account - if you haven't already established one, find those instructions here <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/create.html>
- You can return to an application in progress by keeping a record of your "Re-entry Number" and returning to your saved application.
- Read more about applying online here <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10530.pdf> or review the SSA video here https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm
- If you do not have access to the internet, you may be able to use the automated telephone service at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778).

WHAT IF I WORK PAST AGE 65?

If you have access to group coverage through you or your spouse's employer, and there are at least 20 employees in the group, you may be able to enroll during the Special Enrollment Period (SEP) when that coverage ends, with no penalties. To check whether you're required to enroll in Medicare, talk to your employer health plan administrator.

WHAT IF I HAVE A DISABILITY?

If you're under 65, you're eligible for Medicare after receiving Social Security disability benefits for 24 months.

HOW DO I GET ADDITIONAL COVERAGE?

It's important to know that Original Medicare doesn't cover all your health expenses. Out-of-pocket costs – deductibles, coinsurance and copays – can add up and leave you at risk financially if you don't have additional coverage. For these reasons, we believe that people should consider purchasing a Medicare Supplement (i.e. Medigap) or a Medicare Advantage plan when they first sign up for Medicare. Here's how to get it.

1. Sign up for Original Medicare Parts A and B.
2. Get additional coverage from private insurance companies. You have a couple of options to consider.

1 Add one or both.

- Medicare Supplement Insurance: Covers some of the out-of-pocket costs from Original Medicare.
- Medicare Part D: Helps pay for prescriptions.

2 Get a Medicare Advantage Plan.

- Part C: A bundle of Medicare Parts A and B.
- Part D: Prescription drug coverage.

YOUR PLANNER IS READY TO HELP.

We think your transition to retirement should be as smooth as possible. Talk to your financial planner to discuss your options related to both Social Security benefits and Medicare coverage. They have tools/resources to help you navigate your options and can help you feel confident you're making the right decisions for your family and your broader financial plan.

For more resources

Medicare Helpline
1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
TTY users, call 1-877-486-2048
[Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)

Social Security Administration
1-800-772-1213
7 a.m.–7 p.m., Monday–Friday
TTY 1-800-325-0778
[ssa.gov](https://www.ssa.gov)



Resources: [Parts of Medicare Medicare Coverage Chart Special Enrollment Periods](#) (Medicare.gov)

Source: Bunis, D. (2021, October 12). How to Sign Up: A Guide to Medicare Enrollment. AARP. Retrieved June 3, 2025, from https://www.aarp.org/health/medicare-insurance/info-2020/enrolling-in-medicare.html?CMP=KNC-DSOAdobe-Google-Health-Medicare-Enrollment-NonBrand-Exact-MedicareSignUp&ds_rl=1283770&ds_rl=1284199&ds_rl=1283770&gclid=EAlalQobChMIgKuY0v_p8AIVGLbICh3KdguhEAAYAiAAEgLZ4vD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

Source: U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (n.d.). Get started with Medicare. Retrieved June 3, 2025 from <https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare>

Source: Social Security Administration (n.d.). Medicare Benefits. Retrieved Feb. 19, 2022, from <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/#anchor>

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