

KNOW YOUR BENEFITS.

From The Wladis Companies, Inc.

Medicare 101

What is Medicare?

Medicare is health insurance for people who are age 65 or older, under 65 with certain disabilities, or any age with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure).

Types of Medicare

There are four types of Medicare:

Medicare Part A helps cover inpatient care in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and hospice and home health care. Generally there is no monthly premium if you qualify and paid Medicare taxes while working.

Medicare Part B helps cover medical services like doctors' services, outpatient care and other medically necessary services that Part A doesn't cover. You need to enroll in Medicare Part B and pay a monthly premium determined by your income, along with a deductible.

Many people also purchase a supplemental insurance policy, such as a Medigap plan, to handle any Part A and B coverage gaps.

Medicare Advantage Plans, also known as **Medicare Part C**, are combination plans managed by private insurance companies approved by Medicare. They typically are a combination of Part A, Part B and sometimes Part D coverage, but must cover medically-necessary services. These plans have discretion to assign their own copays, deductibles and coinsurance.

Medicare Part D is prescription drug coverage and is available to everyone with Medicare. It is a separate plan provided by private Medicare-approved companies, and you must pay a monthly premium.

Medicare sends you a questionnaire about three months before you're entitled to coverage. Your answers help Medicare set up your file and make sure your claims are paid correctly.

Getting Started

Medicare sends you a questionnaire about three months before you're entitled to Medicare coverage. Your answers to these questions, including whether you have group health insurance through an employer or family member, help Medicare set up your file and make sure your claims are paid correctly.

If your health insurance or coverage changes at any time after submitting the questionnaire, call the Medicare Coordination of Benefits Contractor at 1-800-999-1118 to update your file. If you do not receive a questionnaire, contact Social Security (not Medicare) at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Coordination of Coverage

If you have Medicare & another type of insurance, the question of who should pay first can be tricky. Contact our office to discuss your specific situation:

- * Why you are eligible for Medicare (Age, Disability or ESRD)
- * Your employment status (Current Employment or Retired)
- * Employer's group size (Over 20/Under 20 or Over 100/Under 100)

Where can I get my questions answered?

Medicare 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) / TTY 1-877-486-2048

Get general or claims-specific Medicare information and make changes to your Medicare coverage. You can also visit www.medicare.gov.

Social Security 1-800-722-1213 / TTY 1-800-325-0778

Get a replacement Medicare or Social Security card, report a change to your address or name, find out if you're eligible for Part A and/or Part B and how to enroll, apply for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs and ask questions about Part A and Part B premiums. You can also visit www.socialsecurity.gov.



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