



New to Medicare Checklist

Prepare Now for a Successful Medicare Enrollment



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Many people don't fully understand what the process is to enroll in Medicare. We have provided to you a handy checklist to help make sure you cover all your bases.

FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT MEDICARE

GOOD NEWS! YOU CAN DO THIS RIGHT

When should you start thinking about Medicare? You should start thinking about enrollment when you turn 64. When do I enroll? Some beneficiaries are automatically enrolled in Medicare, while others need to manually sign up for it. You automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B if you're receiving disability benefits from Social Security or the Railroad Retirement Board for at least two years; if you qualify for Medicare because of disability, you'll be automatically enrolled in Medicare in the 25th month of disability benefits. If you get Medicare because you have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease), you'll be automatically enrolled in Medicare in the first month that your disability benefits starts; you don't need to wait two years in this case. You can expect to get your Medicare card in the mail about three months before your 65th birthday or the 25th month of disability benefits if you're automatically enrolled. Outside of having a disability, you will have to manually sign up for Medicare. When can I enroll?

Planning ahead is important to make sure you make a seamless transition into your Medicare years. Below is a picture to help you understand when you can sign up for Medicare.

When Can I First Enroll in Medicare?

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STEPS TO MEDICARE ENROLLMENT

#1 - CONTACT SOCIAL SECURITY

The thought of having to start this process can be overwhelming. There are three ways to start the process. Go online at www.SocialSecurity.gov, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or stop by in-person at your local Social Security office.





#2 - ENROLLING IN PART A

What is Part A? Medicare Part A is your hospital coverage. It provides you with affordable inpatient care. So, what's does Part A cover? It's going to cover a semi-private room with a bed for you, and all your regular meals while you are there. It will cover medications furnished to you by the hospital and any necessary lab services or medical supplies. Enrolling in Part A is easy. If you have worked for 40 quarters in the US, you and your employer paid Part A taxes during those years. You will be automatically enrolled in Part A once you sign up for Medicare. If you have not worked 40 quarters, contact the Social Security office or visit our Learning Hub at hfcbenefits.com to see what the cost of Part A will be.

How many times have we complained about FICA taxes coming out of our paycheck? FICA stands for the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. This law outlines that taxes should be withheld from paychecks and used to fund the Social Security and Medicare programs. Both employees and employers are impacted by the FICA tax.



#3 - ENROLLING IN PART B

After enrolling in Part A, you will have to make a decision on Part B coverage. What is Medicare Part B coverage? It is your outpatient medical coverage for medically necessary healthcare services. Many people think of it as medical coverage, but it actually covers things both in and out of the hospital. Think of Part B coverage as any care administered by physicians. It covers things like physician's services, radiation or chemotherapy for cancer, surgeries and diagnostic imaging. Part B is optional, but if Medicare is your primary coverage, you definitely need Part B. You also cannot get Medigap supplemental coverage without it.

IMPORTANT: *If you decide not to get Part B when you're first eligible, your monthly premium may go up 10% for each 12-month period you could've had Part B, but didn't sign up. In most cases, you'll have to pay this penalty each time you pay your premiums, for as long as you have Part B. And, the penalty increases the longer you go without Part B coverage. Your Part B cost is based on your income. If you are in a higher income bracket, be prepared to pay more. Medicare will deduct your Part B premiums out of your Social Security check if you are already enrolled in your SS income benefits. If not, they will bill you quarterly. Visit our Learning Hub on our website at [hfcbenefits.com](https://www.hfcbenefits.com) for the updated Part B premiums for high income earners.*

#4 - ONE FINAL DECISION



After enrolling in Medicare Part A & B and receiving your Medicare red, white & blue card, you are now ready to make a very important financial decision. As you see in paying for Part B coverage, Medicare is not free! I believe this is a big misconception with the American public. BIG mistake!

Decisions you will need to make are: How do I cover the deductible and coinsurance of Part A, the deductible of Part B, do I leave Original Medicare and enroll in Part C (Medicare Advantage Plan), or what prescription drug plan is best for me. Those are important decisions you need to make. The best thing is, you don't have to make them alone. Our trained staff will help guide you through this process and answer any questions you have. The best part, it's FREE! **CALL OUR OFFICE TODAY AT 803.286.1161.**



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