



# Medicare 101



## Medicare Mike

Medicare Mike Team

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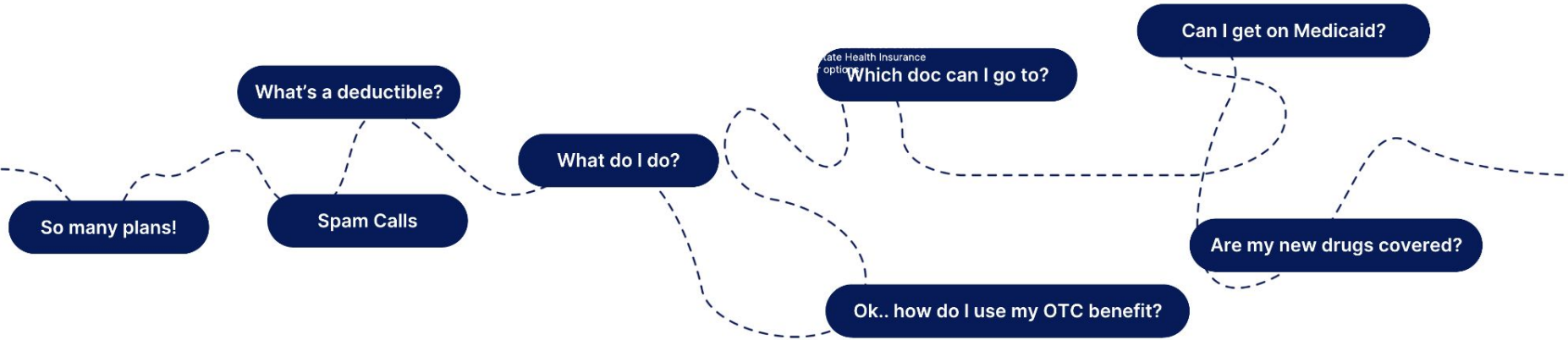
# About Me

I'm a licensed agent with extensive experience in Medicare.

I help you understand Medicare, enroll in the right plan, and maximize your benefits. I am an independent agent, and as a result I'm able to compare all of the plans available to you on the market.

I also have a team of professionals who can support you whenever you have questions.

I cut through all the noise for you.



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# Who I help

I assist clients in every type of scenario. The most common ones are listed below.

- ◆ Turning 65
- ◆ Older than 65, but losing insurance
- ◆ Unsure whether to stay on employer insurance or enroll in Medicare
- ◆ Unhappy with your current coverage
- ◆ On social security disability

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# The ABCs (and D) of Medicare

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# What is Medicare?

The U.S. government's largest health insurance program serving more than 62 million people.

## Medicare Is

- ◆ A **federal** health insurance program
- ◆ For **U.S. citizens and legal residents**
- ◆ **Individual** health insurance

## Medicare Is Not

- ◆ Medicaid
- ◆ Social security
- ◆ Family plans

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# Who Can Get Medicare

You can qualify for Medicare if you meet one of the following requirements:

- ◆ Within three months of turning 65 or older, even if you still work
- ◆ Younger than 65 with a qualifying disability
- ◆ Have end-stage renal disease (ESRD)

**Note:** you also may be eligible for Medicare Part A through your spouse, though you must meet the age or disability requirement



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# What does **Original Medicare** cover?

Cannot be denied coverage •  
Coverage nationwide

Original Medicare consists of Part A and Part B

## Part A Hospital Insurance

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- ◆ Hospital room & meals
- ◆ Intensive care
- ◆ Skilled nursing facility care
- ◆ Operating room services
- ◆ Hospice care
- ◆ Rehabilitation services
- ◆ Some home health care
- ◆ Some drugs & medical supplies for inpatient stays

## Part B Medical Insurance

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- ◆ Doctor visits
- ◆ Annual wellness visits & preventive services
- ◆ Outpatient care
- ◆ Mental health care
- ◆ Clinical lab services
- ◆ Durable medical equipment
- ◆ Ambulance services
- ◆ Occupational/physical therapy

# What does it cost?

Original Medicare consists of Part A and part B

→ but **NO out of pocket maximum**

Premium

**\$0\***

**\$174.70\***  
per month\*\*

Deductible

**\$1,632**  
per benefit period

**\$240**  
per year

Other costs

**\$408**  
per day (days 61-90)  
**\$816**  
per day (after 90)

**20%**  
of costs, plus any excess charges

**\*Note:** premium free if you or your spouse worked and paid taxes for 10+ years. If you don't get premium-free Part A, you pay up to \$505 each month.

**\*\*If you are an above average income earner, you will have to pay a higher Part B premium.**

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# Part B: Detailed costs by income bracket

If your yearly income in 2022 was:

File individual tax return*	File joint tax return*	File married & separate tax return*	You pay (monthly) in 2024
\$103k or less	\$206k or less	\$103k or less	\$174.70
\$103k to \$129k	\$206k to \$258k	N/A	\$244.60
\$129k to \$161k	\$258k to \$322k	N/A	\$349.40
\$161k to \$193k	\$322k to \$386k	N/A	\$454.20
\$193k to \$500k	\$386k to \$750k	\$103k to \$397k	\$559.00
\$500k or above	\$750k or above	\$397k or above	\$594.00

\*Larger number is inclusive. For example, \$97k to \$123k means that the return must be above \$97k up to \$123k (inclusive).

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# What's not covered by Original Medicare

## Parts A and B do not cover the following:

- ⊘ All of the costs of your care (on the prior slide!)
- ⊘ Prescription drugs
- ⊘ Annual physical\*
- ⊘ Dental, vision, and hearing care
- ⊘ Hearing aids
- ⊘ Eyeglasses or contacts
- ⊘ Long-term care
- ⊘ Most care outside the U.S.

**\*Note:** Original Medicare covers an annual "Wellness" visit 1x every 12 months, but that visit is not a physical exam. It includes a Health Risk Assessment questionnaire and a cognitive assessment.

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# Getting **more** coverage

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# To cover these coverage gaps and costs, you have two options!

## 1 Set-and-forget

Enroll in Original Medicare and add 1 or both

### **Medicare Supplement or “Medigap” Plan**

Covers out-of-pocket costs

And / Or

### **Medicare Part D Plan**

Helps pay for prescription drugs

Or

## 2 Pay-as-you-go

Enroll in Original Medicare and select an Advantage plan

### **Part C**

Combines Part A and B in 1 plan

### **Part D**

Helps pay for prescription drugs

+ may offer additional benefits, such as dental, vision, hearing

# About Medicare Supplement Plans

You pay a monthly fee in addition to the Part B premium, and the private plan covers the costs in Original Medicare.

- ◆ There are 8 plans (each has its own letter) standardized by the Federal Government, but offered by private insurance companies.\*
- ◆ The monthly fee can generally range from \$50 - 350, depending on the plan type and your home state.
- ◆ No drug coverage, or dental, hearing and vision benefits.
- ◆ **No medical underwriting** up to 6 months after enrolling in Part B at age 65 or older.
- ◆ Guaranteed renewable.
- ◆ Coverage nationwide; no provider network.

**\*Note:** MA, MN, and WI have plans different from the standard

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# Your Medicare Supplement Plan Options

**Note:** a Plan A with one carrier offers the same benefits as Plan A with another carrier! The most common plan today is Plan G since it offers the most coverage. The main difference between carriers is price.

\* F and G may also have high deductible options. However, Plans C and F are no longer available to people new to Medicare on or after January 1, 2020 as plans can no longer cover the Part B deductible.

Basic Benefits	A	B	D	G*	K	L	M	N	C*	F*
Part A: Hospital Coinsurance	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Part A: Hospice Care Coinsurance	☑	☑	☑	☑	50%	75%	☑	☑	☑	☑
Part B: Medical Coinsurance	☑	☑	☑	☑	50%	75%	☑	☑	☑	☑
Part B: Medical Preventive Care Coinsurance	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Parts A & B: Blood (first 3 pints)	☑	☑	☑	☑	50%	75%	☑	☑	☑	☑
Additional Benefits	A	B	D	G*	K	L	M	N	C*	F*
Skilled Nursing Care Coinsurance			☑	☑	50%	75%	☑	☑	☑	☑
Part A Deductible \$1,632		☑	☑	☑	50%	75%	50%	☑	☑	☑
Part B Deductible \$240									☑	☑
Part B Excess Charges				☑						☑
Foreign Travel Emergency (lifetime limit \$50k)			80%	80%			80%	80%	80%	80%
Out-of-pocket Yearly Limit					\$7,060	\$3,530				

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# About Part C: “Medicare Advantage”

## Benefits

All the benefits of Part A and Part B

You're still in the Medicare program, but plans are offered by private companies



Most plans include prescription drugs

Many plans offer additional benefits:



Routine dental



Routine eye exams and eyeglasses



Hearing tests & aids



Wellness programs

## Costs

Continue to pay the Part B plan premium



Many plans are \$0 premium



You may have out-of-pocket co-pays and co-insurance when you use services



Typically have annual out-of-pocket maximum

## Other factors



You may need a referral to see a specialist



Coordinated care support with provider network

# About Part D: Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

Private Plans that help cover the cost of prescription drugs

## Plans Cover:

- ◆ Most common medications
- ◆ Specific brand name & generic drugs according to the plan's formulary (drug list)
- ◆ Vaccines not covered by Part B

→ You can get Part D via a stand-alone Part D plan OR via a Medicare Advantage plan that includes prescription drug coverage (MAPD)

## How it works:

- ◆ You pay a monthly premium. The average premium is ~\$56.
- ◆ You have a co-pay for each medication, based on its tier. There are 4 or 5 tiers, from lowest to highest priced.
- ◆ You may also have a deductible
- ◆ You may have to use a specific pharmacy network

# Part D: Detailed premiums by income bracket

If your yearly income in 2022 was:

File individual tax return*	File joint tax return*	File married & separate tax return*	You pay (monthly) in 2024
\$103k or less	\$206k or less	\$103k or less	your plan premium
\$103k to \$129k	\$206k to \$258k	N/A	\$12.90 + your plan premium
\$129k to \$161k	\$258k to \$322k	N/A	\$33.30 + your plan premium
\$161k to \$193k	\$322k to \$386k	N/A	\$53.80 + your plan premium
\$193k to \$500k	\$386k to \$750k	\$103k to \$397k	\$74.20 + your plan premium
\$500k or above	\$750k or above	\$397k or above	\$81.00 + your plan premium

\* Larger number is inclusive. For example, \$97k to \$123k means that the return must be above \$97k up to \$153k (inclusive).

# Part D: Coverage stage & formulary

In addition to your premium, you will pay an amount per prescription, which depends on your coverage stage and drug type

## Coverage Stages

During the year, you may go through drug coverage stages, which impacts the amount paid per prescription



## Formulary

- ◆ Drugs are grouped into cost tiers; the lower the tier, the lower the cost
- ◆ You may be able to reduce the cost by purchasing via mail or at a preferred pharmacy



Tier 1	Generics, preferred	\$
Tier 2	Generics	\$\$
Tier 3	Brands, preferred	\$\$\$
Tier 4	Brands	\$\$\$\$
Tier 5	Specialty	\$\$\$\$\$

# Making a **decision**

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# What should you choose?

## Coverage

### Option 1

#### Medicare Supplement + Prescription Drug Plan

Everything Original Medicare covers

### Option 2

#### Medicare Advantage

Everything Original Medicare covers, plus additional benefits

## Cost

✗ Medigap: ~\$200 per month  
Drug plan: ~\$33 per month

✓ Typically \$0 premium  
Copays and co-insurance for services

Very low out-of-pocket expenses

~\$7,550 out of pocket-maximum average (in-network)

## Choice

✓ Any doctor, anywhere, who accepts Medicare. No referral required.

✗ May need a referral

✗ May only see in-network doctors

**Know what you'll pay each month**

**Pay as you go**



# What should **you** consider?

It's a personal decision based on cost, convenience, and health history.  
Consider the following questions:



What am I willing/able to spend on premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and copays?



Does the plan I'm considering have all the benefits I'm looking for?



How important is it to me to have vision, dental, and hearing services covered?



Am I okay with having a restricted list of providers and hospitals within a network?



Do I feel comfortable using this plan to manage any chronic health conditions I have?



# Additional considerations

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# Special needs plans

Medicare Special Needs Plans (SNPs) typically offer more benefits with specific care plans. You may qualify if:

- ◆ You have a chronic condition, like diabetes or a heart condition
- ◆ You receive Medicaid assistance from your state
- ◆ You live in a facility like a nursing home and need additional care



# Financial Assistance

Depending on your income and assets, you may qualify for additional assistance through:

- ◆ Medicaid
- ◆ Medicare Savings Programs to reduce Part A and B costs
- ◆ Extra Help (Low Income Subsidy) to reduce medication costs
- ◆ Additional local assistance programs



# Enrolling in **Medicare**

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# Enrolling in Original Medicare

## Initial enrollment period:

3 months before and after the month you turn 65

- ◆ Enroll at SSA.gov for Original Medicare
- ◆ Enroll in Part A; you can delay Part B



If you miss it, you can enroll during the General Enrollment Period (Jan - Mar for Parts A and B). Late enrollment premium penalties apply, so don't miss it!



# Enrolling in Medicare Supplement

For 6 months after the month you're 65 and older, and enrolled in Part B, you may enroll in a Supplement plan

- ◆ No underwriting required\*
- ◆ Guaranteed renewable



If you enroll later, you may be denied based on your health history or see higher premiums.

**Note:** You have guaranteed issue rights typically when you have other health coverage that changes in some way. Special situations will apply.

# Working past 65

You may be able to delay, or you may have to enroll at age 65

## Can delay without penalty if:

**Employer has...**

20 or more employees

**Coverage is...**

Considered "creditable"

## Cannot delay without penalty if:

Fewer than 20 or more employees

Not considered "creditable"

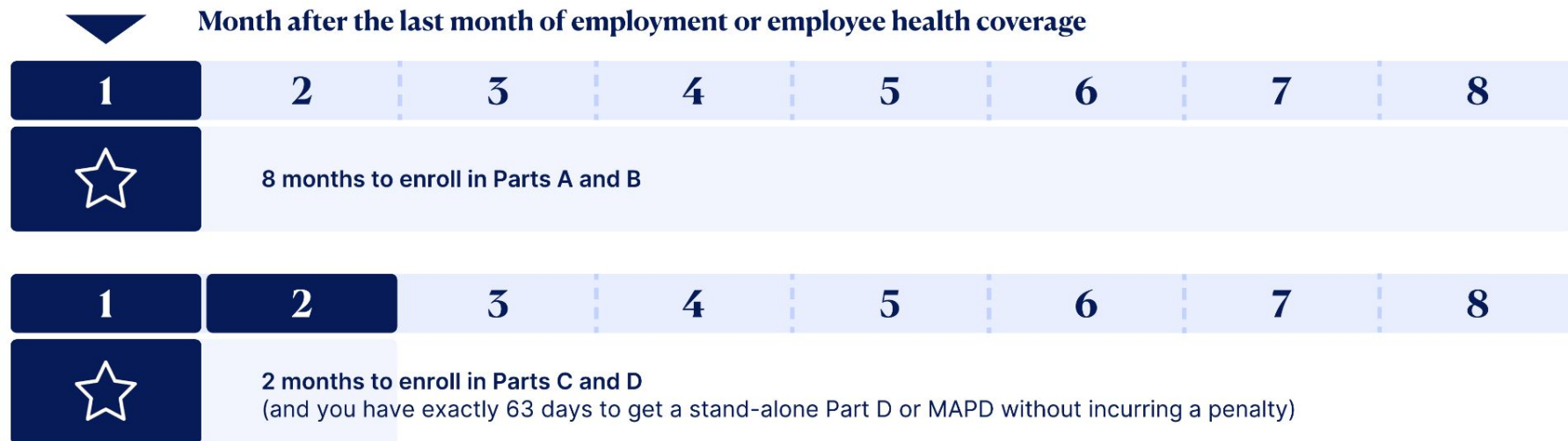
## What if I'm covered by my spouse's employer?

You may be able to delay if your employer-based health coverage is through your spouse. It depends on your spouse's employer and any rules the employer has around covered dependents

# Enrolling in Medicare, after 65

If you delayed enrollment, you can enroll the month after the last month of employment or health coverage. You may:

- ◆ Enroll in Part A and/or Part B
- ◆ Enroll in Part C or Part D stand-alone plan
- ◆ Enroll in a Medicare Supplement plan (within 6 months)



# Changing **your plan**

If you don't like your initial decision, you can always change it!\*

## **Medicare Annual Enrollment [October 15 - December 7]**

- ◆ Switch from or into a Medicare Advantage plan
- ◆ Join, switch, or drop a Prescription Drug Plan

## **Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment [January 1 - March 31]**

- ◆ Open only to Medicare Advantage Plan members to switch or drop plans

## **Special Enrollment Periods: Qualifying Events**

- ◆ E.g. you move, lose coverage, qualify for a Special Needs Plan, start receiving State financial assistance, and other qualifying events
- ◆ Time frames vary depending on the Special Enrollment Period

**\*Note:** while you have opportunities to change plans, if you elect to start on a Medicare Advantage plan and then later decide to switch to a Medigap plan, you may be subject to underwriting requirements as you will be outside the guaranteed issue period.

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# Don't be late!

If you're late enrolling in Parts A, B and D, you can face a penalty.

- Part A** 10%, if not qualified for premium free
- Part B** 10%, if not qualified for special enrollment period (e.g. loss employer coverage)
- Part D** 1% of current average premium for each month, if more than 63 days without creditable coverage\*

**\*Note:** see the "Terminology" section for what qualifies as creditable coverage





# Getting through the terminology

## Benefit period

The length of time Original Medicare uses to assess your use of hospital and skilled nursing facilities. It begins the day you're admitted as an inpatient to a hospital or skilled nursing facility and ends when you haven't gotten any care from these facilities for 60 consecutive days.

## Coinsurance

The amount of money (usually represented as a percentage of the total cost) that you may be required to pay for services once you hit your plan's deductible.

## Copay

The amount of money you may be required to pay for medical services or supplies, like doctor's appointments and medications.

## Deductible

The amount of money you will be required to pay out of pocket for healthcare services and supplies (including medications) before your insurance plan starts to cover any amount of the costs.

## Lifetime reserve days

If you have Original Medicare and require hospitalization for more than 90 days in a single benefit period, a portion of your costs for 60 additional reserve days will be covered. You'll pay coinsurance for each one of these reserve days, and Medicare will cover whatever is left over.

## Out-of-pocket limit

The maximum amount of money you have to pay for covered health care services in a plan year. Medicare Advantage plans are required by law to set annual dollar limits on out-of-pocket expenses but there's no annual dollar limit on your out-of-pocket expenses if you have Original Medicare.

## Premium

The monthly payment you make to Medicare to receive the benefits of your healthcare plan.

## Creditable coverage

Coverage and plan benefits that are up to the same standards as Medicare are considered "creditable coverage". Beneficiaries with other sources of creditable coverage - for example, through an employer - may stay on that plan and avoid late enrollment penalties.





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