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Your Medicare
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By Chris Tighe at 10:40 am, Aug 08, 2016

Getting started with Medicare

Your Medicare coverage
choices

What's Medicare?

How Original Medicare
works

8 things to consider when
choosing or changing
your coverage

When & how to sign up for
Part A & Part B

Apply for Medicare online

How to get drug coverage

When can I join a health or
drug plan?

About Medicare health plans

Find health & drug plans

What's Medicare?

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people who are 65 or older, certain younger people with disabilities, and people with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a transplant, sometimes called ESRD).

The different parts of Medicare help cover specific services:

Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance)

Part A covers inpatient hospital stays, care in a skilled nursing facility, hospice care, and some home health care.

Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance)

Part B covers certain doctors' services, outpatient care, medical supplies, and preventive services.

Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage Plans)

A type of Medicare health plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide you with all your Part A and Part B benefits. Medicare Advantage Plans include Health Maintenance Organizations, Preferred Provider Organizations, Private Fee-for-Service Plans, Special Needs Plans, and Medicare Medical Savings Account Plans. If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, most Medicare services are covered through the plan and aren't paid for under Original Medicare. Most Medicare Advantage Plans offer prescription drug coverage.

Related Resources

- ◆ Medicare & You: different parts of Medicare
- ◆ Parts A & B alphabet soup
- ◆ Enroll in Parts C & D

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