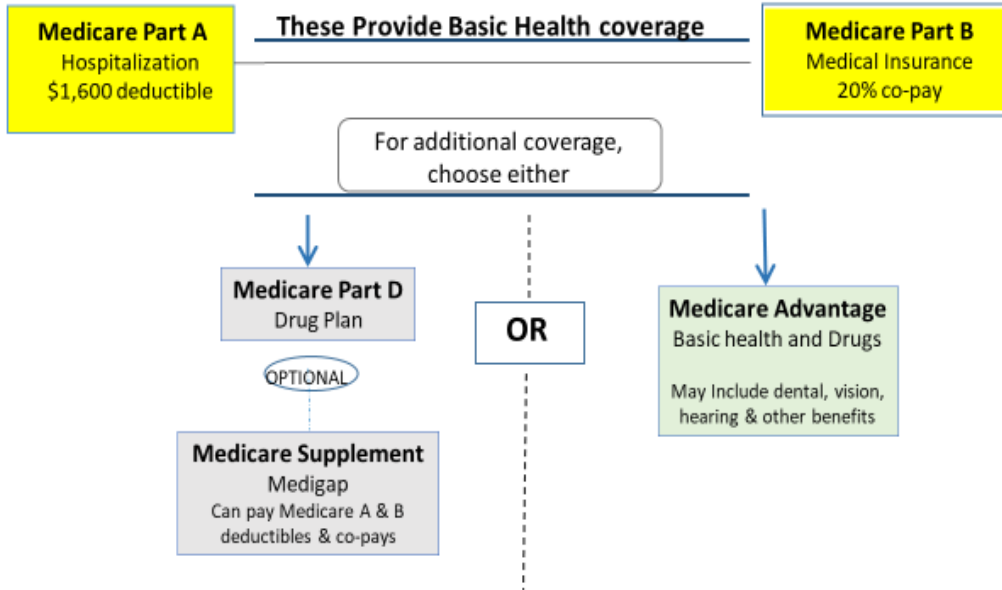


Medicare Choices



MEDICARE OVERVIEW

- You do not have to receive Social Security to enroll.
- Must be at least age 65 or be on social security disability for 24 months.
- If you work for a large company with 20 or more employees, your group health plan pays first with Medicare being secondary. Check with your employer first.
- If you work for a small company with fewer than 20 employees, you probably should enroll in Medicare A&B. Verify with employer.
- If you work past age 65, there is an 8-month Enrollment Period beginning when you or your spouse stop working, even if you choose COBRA.
- Enroll on time to avoid paying a late enrollment penalty for Medicare Part B.

MEDICARE PART A

- Covers hospitalization, nursing home, hospice and home health care.
- You're eligible for premium-free Part A if you paid into Medicare for at least 10 years of employment.
- Once you start receiving Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in Part A if you are 65.
- 2023 in-patient hospital deductible is \$1,600 per stay.
- Nursing home – the first 20 days are free; the next 80 days have a \$200 per day co-pay (2023). Must be a qualifying stay.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (HSA)

- Medicare Part A coverage begins six months before the date you apply for Medicare, but no earlier than the first month you were eligible for Medicare - usually at age 65.
- Stop contributing to your HSA at least six months before you apply for Medicare.

MEDICARE PART B

- Covers doctor office visits, x-rays, CT scans, outpatient surgery and others.
- Monthly premium is \$164.90 for most people. If your income and assets are limited, you may be eligible for assistance.
- You pay a 20% co-insurance for most Part B expenses.
- Annual deductible is \$226 (for 2023).
- You have a 6-month **guaranteed** enrollment period starting when you're 65 and enrolled in Medicare Part B to purchase a Medicare Supplement plan.
- If you previously enrolled in Medicare Part A when you became 65 and now want to enroll in Medicare Part B because you or your spouse are retiring:
 - Go to www.ssa.gov and click on "Sign up for Medicare"
 - Complete CMS-40B "Application for Enrollment in Medicare Part B"
 - Indicate "I want Part B coverage to begin (MM/YY)" in the remarks section of the CMS-40B form or online application.
 - Complete CMS-L564 "Request for Employment Information". Complete 1 form for each employer you've had since turning 65.
 - Have your employer fill out Section B of this form and fax or mail these 2 forms to your local Social Security office.

MEDICARE PART D- DRUGS

- Must have Medicare Parts A and/or B.
- Drug coverage available either a Part D plan or Medicare Advantage plan.
- Plans may have monthly premiums and deductibles.
- Co-pays vary by plan. Choose a preferred in-network pharmacy, they usually have the lowest costs for that plan.
- You may be eligible for low-income assistance in helping to pay for your costs. This is called Extra Help. If eligible, you can switch plans quarterly.
- Use www.medicare.gov plan finder to find least expensive plan for your drugs.
- If you are past age 65 and lose employer coverage, you have 2 months to enroll in a Medicare drug plan.
- You can switch plans during Fall Open Enrollment period of Oct 15 - Dec. 7.
- You may delay enrollment in a Part D plan without penalty if employer coverage is considered “Creditable Coverage”. Check with your HR department to determine this. Do not go 63 days or more in a row without creditable coverage.
- Penalty is \$0.33 per month times the number of months you didn’t have either a Part D plan or creditable coverage. You’ll generally have to pay the penalty as long as you have Medicare drug coverage.
- Penalty waived if you qualify for Extra Help, or if on Medicare due to disability when you turn 65.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE (MA) PLANS

- Medicare contracts with insurance companies to provide your Medicare A&B benefits. Medicare pays these companies to insure you.
- You must be enrolled in Medicare parts A&B and continue to pay monthly Part B premiums.
- Most plans have network of providers. If you go outside of this network: **HMO plan** - you generally pay the entire cost. **PPO plan** - usually pay more, but not the entire amount.
- Plans must cover the same services as Medicare although qualifications for coverage may differ.
- Majority of plans include drug coverage. Dental, vision, hearing coverage plus other benefits are usually provided.
- Co-pays are required for majority of medical expenses with co-pay maximums (annual limits) for in-network providers.
- You may be eligible for low-income assistance to help pay for your costs. If eligible, you can switch plans quarterly.
- Use www.medicare.gov plan finder to find best plan for your drugs & see overview of plans' health benefits.
- Compare plans costs/benefits by referring to the "Medicare Advantage Plans" section in FortWayneSHIP.com.
- If you are past age 65 and lose employer coverage, you have 2 months to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan.
- You can switch plans during Fall Open Enrollment period of Oct 15 - Dec. 7.

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT (MEDIGAP)

- You can go to any health care provider accepting Medicare.
- Works only with Medicare A & B; drug coverage not included.
- You have a 6-month **guaranteed** enrollment period starting when you're 65 and enrolled in Medicare Part B.
- If you want to enroll or switch plans beyond the 6-month guaranteed period, your health could affect your ability to purchase a plan.
- No annual open enrollment period to switch plans.
- 9 plans options are available. These pay some or all of Medicare's deductibles & co-pays - depending on plan choice.
- If enrolled in Medicare due to disability, only plan 'A' is available. This will pay the 20% Medicare part B copay. No guarantee of coverage since you are subject to medical underwriting.
- Once you determine which type of plan or plans you want, use the plan finder in www.medicare.IN.gov. Select "Medicare Supplement Plans" and "compare Medicare Supplement Policies". Enter your zip code, gender, plan choice to view estimated premium costs by company.
- Premiums vary by company, however coverage does not. Premiums will likely increase over time.
- Contact the insurance company for exact pricing and recent rates of increases.