

MEDICARE OVERVIEW

- You do not have to receive Social Security to enroll in Medicare.
- Must be at least age 65 or on social security disability for 24 months for Medicare to begin. If you enroll in Medicare at age 65, you have a 7 month enrollment period, starting 3 months before and ending 3 months after your birthday month (total 7 months).
- If you work for a company with 20 + employees, your group health plan pays first, and Medicare is secondary. If you work for a company with fewer than 20 employees, you probably should enroll in Medicare A&B. In either situation, verify with employer.

MEDICARE PART A

- Covers hospitalization, nursing home, hospice and home health care.
- You can see any provider accepting Medicare if you stay with Medicare parts A & B.
- Once you start receiving Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in Part A if you are 65.
- You're eligible for premium-free Part A if you paid into Medicare for at least 10 years of employment.
- The in-patient hospital deductible is \$1,736 deductible in 2026.
- Nursing home – the first 20 days are free; the next 80 days have a \$217 per day co-pay (for 2026) - must be a qualifying stay.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (HSA)

- Medicare Part A coverage begins 6 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 6 months before applying for Medicare Part A.

MEDICARE PART B

- Covers doctor office visits, x-rays, CT scans, outpatient surgery and others.
- You can see any provider accepting Medicare if you stay with Medicare parts A & B.
- 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.
- You pay a 20% co-insurance for most Part B expenses, with an annual deductible of \$283 (for 2026). A Medicare Supplement plan will pay some or all of the 20% co-insurance.
- Premium is \$202.90/month for most individuals. You may be eligible for low-income assistance in helping to pay for this premium if your monthly income is less than \$2,342 (\$3,172 married) and assets less than \$9,430 (\$14,130 married).
- If annual income exceeds \$109,000 (single) or \$218,000 (joint return), you will pay an additional Part B premium. If you experienced a one-time event that increased your income, you may appeal your status through: www.ssa.gov/medicare/lower-irmaa to possibly avoid paying this additional premium.
- If have an employer-provided health insurance plan, you can delay enrollment in Medicare. There is an 8-month Enrollment Period beginning when you or your spouse stop working, even if you choose COBRA.