

MEDICARE PART D- DRUGS

DESCRIPTION

- Plans sold by insurance companies.
- Cannot be denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions.
- Must have Medicare Parts A and/or B.
- Drug coverage may be obtained either through a Part D plan or a Medicare Advantage plan having drug coverage.

COST

- Plans usually have monthly premiums and deductibles.
- Co-pays vary depending on how your insurance plan classifies your drugs, the cost of the drugs and choice of pharmacy. It is best to choose a preferred in-network pharmacy.
- Your co-pays and deductibles are limited to \$2,100 (2026) per year for covered drugs.
- You have the option to spread your drug co-pays over the remainder of the year, rather than paying at time of purchase.
- Use *Medicare.gov* plan finder to find least expensive plan for your drugs since your drugs may not be covered by all plans.
 - You may be eligible for low-income assistance in helping to pay for your costs. If you don't have Medicare drug (or equivalent) coverage) for 63 or more days, you may owe a late enrollment penalty. Penalty is \$0.3899 (2026) x the number of months you didn't have a Part D plan. Usually pay the penalty as long as you have Medicare drug coverage. Penalty is waived if you qualify for Extra Help, also when you turn 65 if you're disabled.

ENROLLMENT

- If you enroll in Medicare at age 65, you can join a drug plan during the 7 month enrollment period (starts 3 months before and ends 3 months after your birthday month - total 7 months).

MEDICARE PART D- DRUGS cont'd

- If you are past age 65 and lose employer coverage, you have 2 months to enroll in a drug plan.
- You may delay enrollment without penalty if employer coverage is considered "Creditable Coverage". Check with your HR department to determine this.
- You can change plans during Fall Open Enrollment period of Oct 15 - Dec. 7.
- If eligible for low-income assistance, you can join, disenroll or switch plans quarterly.