

# Enrolling in Medicare

Keep this checklist handy

Turning 65 is a milestone for many individuals as it signals eligibility for Medicare. This checklist guide will provide you with guidance on how to enroll in Medicare and how to make the process easier in the weeks and months ahead.

Please note that this is just a starting point. You should also discuss your healthcare strategy with your financial advisor.



## Medicare Components

Medicare is made up of a few main parts

- **Part A** covers inpatient hospital stays.
- **Part B** covers doctor services, outpatient care, medical equipment, and preventative exams.
- **Part C** or Medicare Advantage is offered by private companies and fills in the coverage gaps of Parts A and B. Part C provides supplemental healthcare benefits such as wellness programs, routine vision care, and most offer prescription drug coverage.
- **Part D** covers the cost of prescription drugs not covered by original Medicare and is also offered by private insurers.
- **Part F** or Medigap is supplemental insurance provided by private insurance companies.
  - Generally **Part F** is paired with **Part D** and carries higher premiums than Medicare Advantage but lower out-of-pocket expenses.
  - **Part F** also provides greater flexibility when it comes to choosing healthcare providers compared to Medicare Advantage.
- Read more about the costs associated with healthcare [here](#), and speak with your financial advisor about which factors to consider as it will determine your combination of benefits.

To understand healthcare costs specific to you in retirement, utilize our [Healthcare Calculator](#).



## Enrolling in Original Medicare (Parts A and B)

### If you are collecting Social Security prior to age 65

- Enrollment in **Part A and Part B** is automatic *three months* prior to turning 65.
- Note if you are covered by a qualified employer health plan (or covered under your spouse's employer health plan), you can choose to delay enrolling into Part B during this initial period without incurring a penalty in the future.
  - Contact your (or your spouse's) health plan administrator to see if you are required to enroll in order to receive the full benefits. There are other considerations such as premiums and benefits covered.

### If you are not collecting Social Security prior to 65

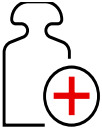
- *Three months prior* to turning 65
  - Collect the following [necessary information and materials](#) for application.
  - Complete and submit the application for **Part A and Part B** at [ssa.gov](#).

Once you have applied for Parts A and B, you can explore your supplemental healthcare options. **Generally, individuals will enroll in Medicare Advantage or Prescription Drug Coverage and Medigap.**



### Option 1: Enrolling in Medicare Advantage (Part C)

- Apply for **Part C** with a private insurer as soon as you've enrolled in **Parts A and B**.
- Browse and compare Medicare Advantage (**Part C**) plans in your area [here](#).
  - Note that if you belong to a **Part C** plan, you may have to pay higher out of pocket costs if you want to seek treatment from providers outside of your network.



### Option 2: Enrolling in Prescription Drug Coverage and Medigap (Part D and Part F)

- Apply for **Parts D and F** as soon as you've enrolled in **Parts A and B**.
- To join a **Part D** (Prescription Drug Coverage)
  - Enroll on the [Medicare Plan Finder](#) or on the specific plan's website or call the Medicare line at 1-800-MEDICARE.
  - Have your Medicare Number handy. When you join a prescription drug plan, you will need to provide your Medicare Number and the date your Part A and/or Part B coverage started. This information is on your [Medicare card](#).
- To enroll in **Part F** (Medigap)
  - Browse and compare Medigap plans in your area [here](#).
  - Submit to medical underwriting for the insurance company plan provider.
    - For **Part F** there is generally no medical underwriting during the initial enrollment period. However when switching plans medical underwriting is required.

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