PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING

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APPRISE Program Overview and Medicare 101

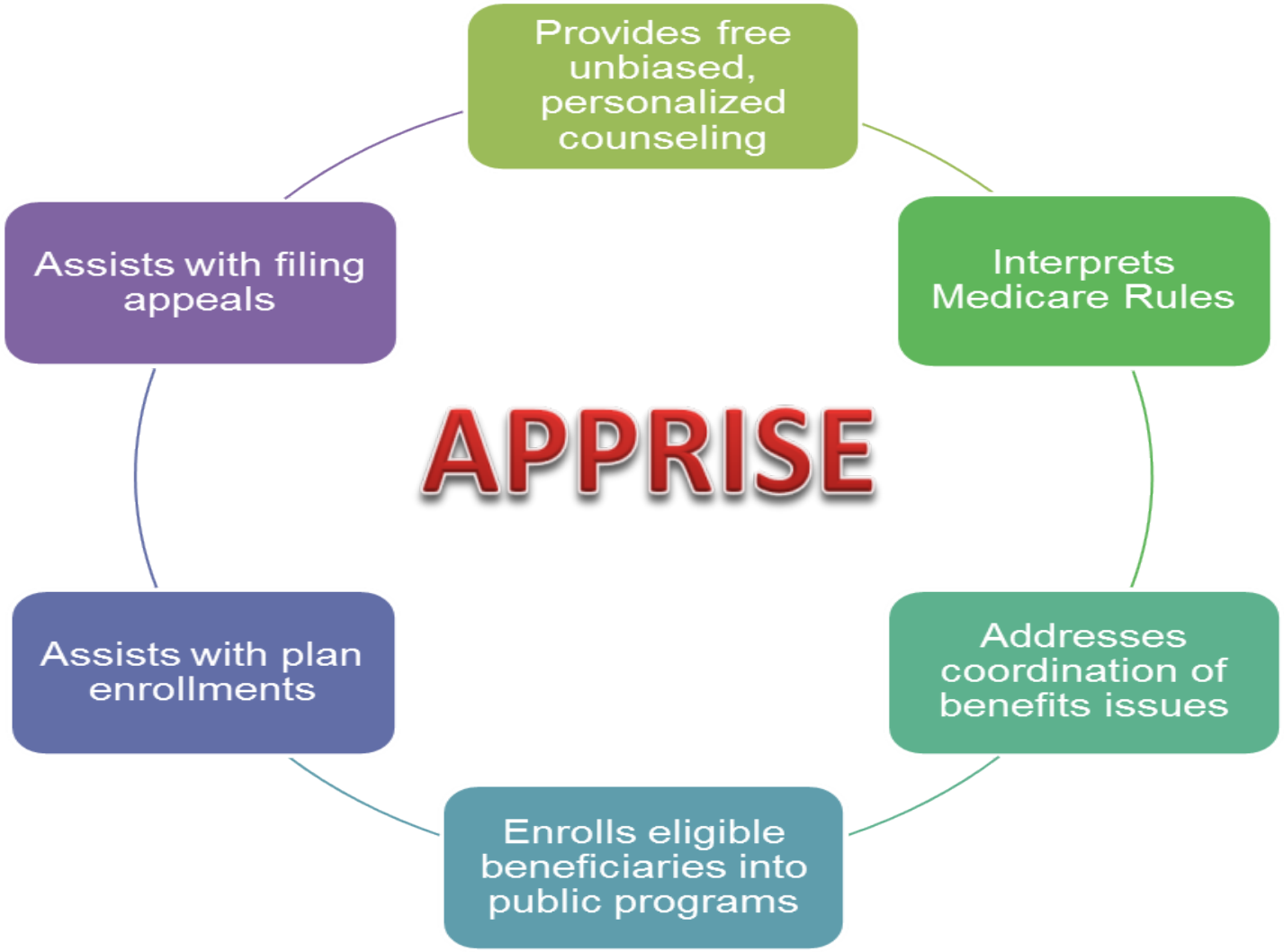
What we will cover…

- Overview of the APPRISE Program
- Medicare Basics
  - Parts of Medicare, Options, Costs, Enrollment
- Coordination of Benefits
- Penalties
- Switching Plans
- Cost Savings Programs
- Where to Find Help

What is APPRISE?

- **Pennsylvania's** State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)
- Services provided locally through Pennsylvania's 52 Area Agencies on Aging
- Supported by nearly 600 volunteers statewide
- Currently serving over 250,000 of Pennsylvania's 2.7 million Medicare beneficiaries

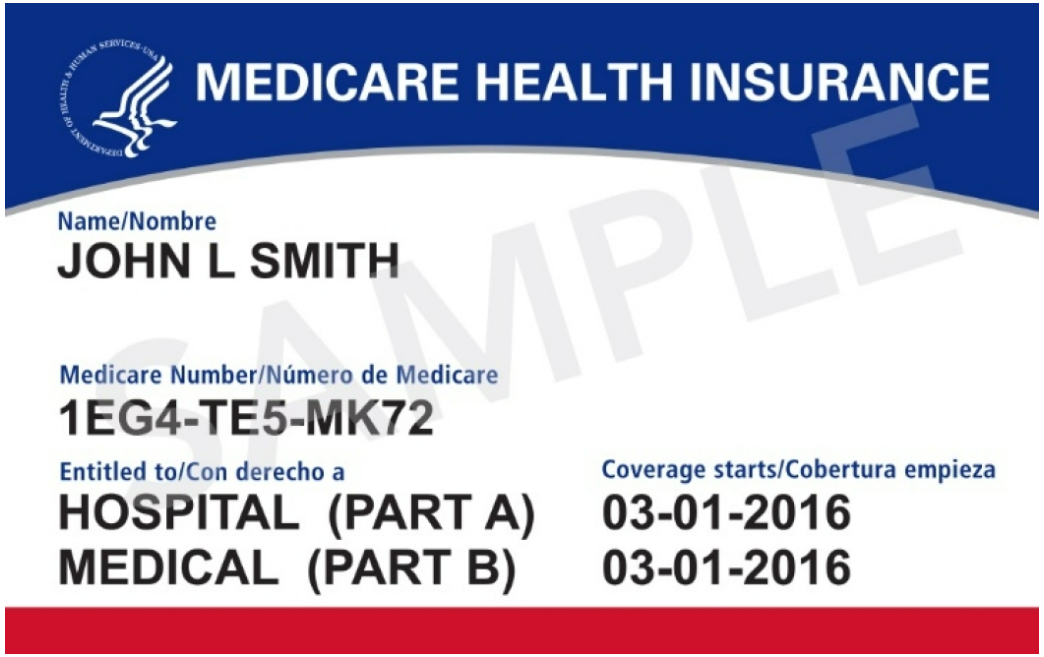
How Does APPRISE Assist Medicare Beneficiaries?



How Services are Delivered

Medicare Basics

- What is Medicare?
- How to enroll?
- What are the parts of Medicare?
- How much does Medicare cost?
- What are the coverage options?



What is Medicare?

- A federal health insurance program for:

  People age 65 years or older

  People under age 65 with certain disabilities
  - ESRD (End Stage Renal Disease)
  - ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease)
  - Other disabilities are determined by the Social Security Administration

- You must be a U.S. Citizen or legal immigrant for at least five years

Medicare is not the same as Medicaid

Medicare Has Four Parts

Part A
Hospital
Insurance

Part B
Medical
Insurance

Part C
Medicare
Advantage

Part D
Prescription
Drugs

Part A: Hospital Insurance

Hospital Stays, Including Psychiatric	Skilled Nursing
• Room, meals, nursing, doctors care not covered under Part B • Does not cover TV, telephone, private room, etc.	• After three-day hospital stay • Up to 100 days benefits
Hospice	**Home Health Care**
• For terminally ill with < 6 months to live • In home or facility • Also, social services and respite for caregivers	• Part-time or intermittent only • First 100 visits • Also, social services, durable medical equipment, etc.
Blood	
• After first three pints	

Part B: Medical Insurance

Outpatient Medical Care	Home Health Care
• Doctor's care not covered by Part A • Mental Health Counseling • Includes second surgical opinions	• If doctor ordered • Up to 100 days in benefit period • Not long-term care or custodial care
Preventive Care	**Ambulance**
• One-time Welcome to Medicare Exam • Yearly Wellness exams • Pap test & pelvic exam • Age-appropriate screenings and shots	• Emergency transport when another way would endanger health • Only to nearest ER • Does not cover cab rides
Blood & Rx Drugs	**Occupational & Physical Therapy**
• After first three pints • Drugs administered in doctor's office	• For treatment that will improve health • To help return to every day activities • Some limits and exceptions
Labs, X-rays & Tests	**Durable Medical Equipment**
• If medically necessary • Personal diabetic testing supplies	• Crutches, wheelchairs, oxygen, hospital beds, etc. if needed in home • Rented or purchased

Part C: Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans

(Medicare Parts A and B + Medicare Part D)

The most common Medicare Advantage plans are:

- Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)
- Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs)
- Special Needs Plans (SNPs)

A plans must cover the same benefits as Original Medicare

Part D: Prescription Drug Coverage

Offered through private insurance companies as a stand alone prescription drug plan (PDP) or through a Medicare Advantage Plan (MA-PD)

Provides coverage for outpatient prescription medications:

- Brand and generic medications
- Vaccinations not covered by Medicare Part B

What Original Medicare Doesn't Cover

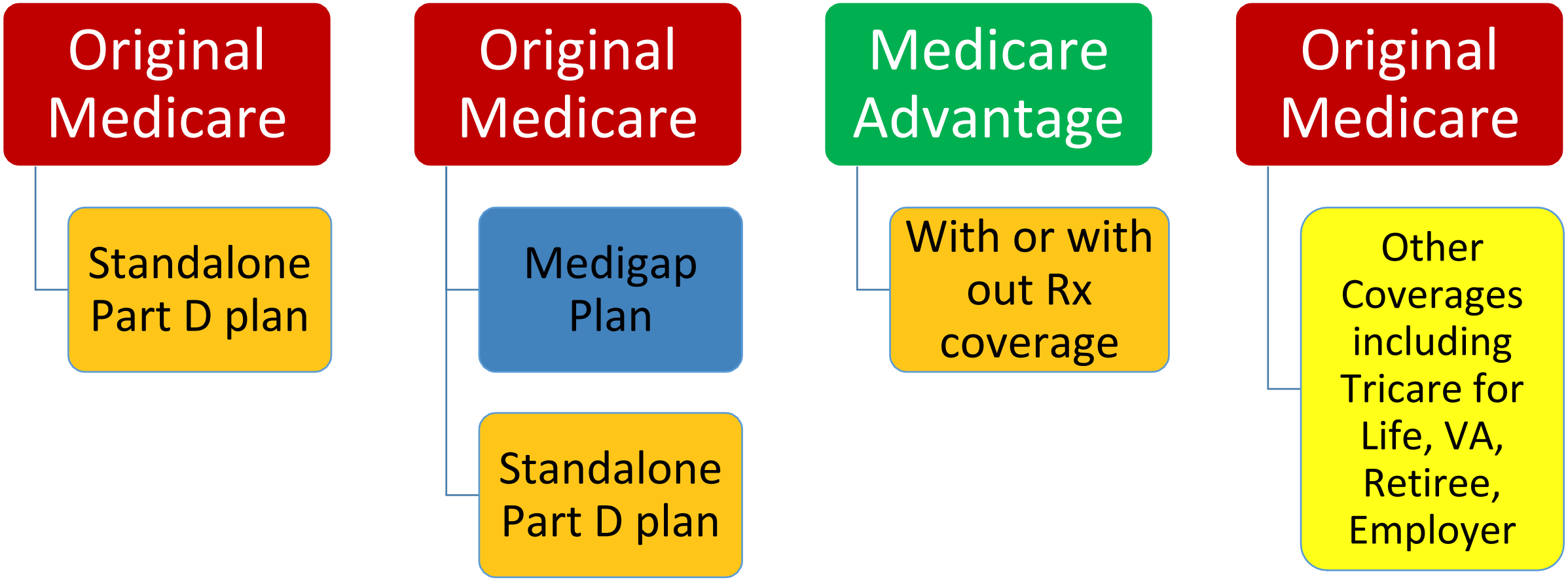
- Drugs unrelated to illness
- Private duty nursing
- Long-term care
- Medical care outside US
- Homemaker services
- Meals on Wheels or personal services
- IV delivered antibiotics/fluids for hydration
- Non-emergency transportation services
- Alternative Medicine
- Routine dental & vision care

2021 Medicare Costs

*If an individual (or their spouse) has not paid Medicare taxes for at least 40 work quarters (10 years), they will pay a monthly Part A premium.

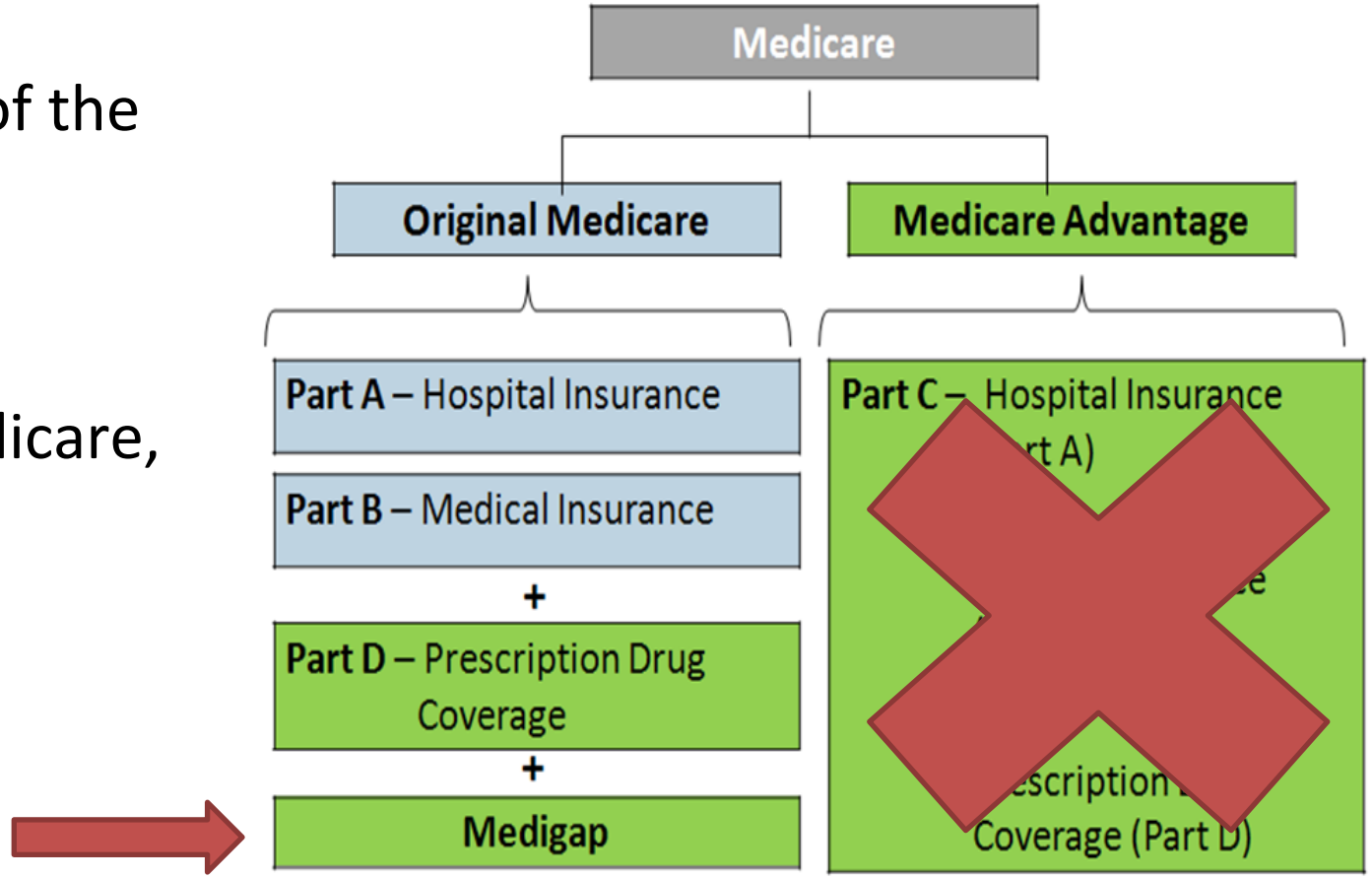
**Standard premium. Higher for those at higher income levels.

	Part A	Part B
Monthly Premium	$0 or up to $471/month*	$148.50 Per month**
Deductible	$1,484 per benefit period	$203 per year
Cost Sharing	Inpatient Hospital $0 for days 1-60 $371for days 61-90 $742 for days 91-150 Skilled Nursing Facility $0 for days 1-20 $185.50 for days 21-100	20% of the Medicare approved amount


Original Medicare
Standalone Part D plan
Original Medicare
Medigap Plan
Standalone Part D plan
Medicare Advantage
With or with out Rx coverage
Original Medicare
Other Coverages including Tricare for Life, VA, Retiree, Employer

Medigap Policies

- A policy that pays part or all of the remaining costs that Original Medicare doesn't cover
- Only works with Original Medicare, not Medicare Advantage
- Does not include prescription coverage



Medigap Policies

- Medigap Policies are sold by private insurance companies
  - Current Medigap Policies: A, B, D, G*, K, L, M, N
- Medigap policies are standardized: Medigap policies with the same letter must offer the same benefits, even if offered through different insurance companies
- Medigap policies are sold in three ways: Issue Age, Attained Age and Community Rated

Note: Medigap Plans C and F are available to those who were eligible for Medicare prior to January 1, 2020.

Original Medicare	Medicare Advantage

• Does not include prescription coverage
  ○ Would need to purchase a stand alone Part D plan
• Can see any doctor that accepts Original Medicare
• No referrals for specialists
• Does not include hearing, vision, or dental coverage
• No limit on out-of-pocket costs
• Can purchase a Medigap plan to help cover gaps in costs
	• Usually includes prescription coverage
	• Networks of doctors, service areas
	• May require a referral for specialist
	• May offer additional benefits
	  ○ Hearing, vision, dental
	• Limit on out-of-pocket costs
	• Do not need to purchase Medigap plan
	
	*** You will be responsible for the monthly Medicare Part B premium whether you select original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan**

How Does Medicare Enrollment Work?

If…	Then…
You get Social Security retirement or disability payments	You will be enrolled automatically
You will soon turn 65 years old	You should contact the Social Security Administration to sign up

Enroll online at ***.ssa.gov

Initial Enrollment Period

The Initial Enrollment Period is the first time an individual is allowed to sign up for Medicare Benefits. An individual can choose to join Medicare Parts A, B, C and D during this time.

3 months before the 65th birthday

The month of the 65th birthday

3 months after the 65th birthday

Initial Enrollment Period

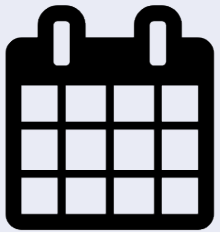
Enrollment Date	Coverage Begins
Enrollment occurs during the 3 months before the 65th birthday month	The 1st day of the 65th birthday month
Enrollment occurs during the 65th birthday month	The 1st day of the month after the 65th birthday month
Enrollment occurs the month after the 65th birthday month	3 months after the 65th birthday month
Enrollment occurs during the 2nd month after the 65th birthday month	5 months after the 65th birthday month
Enrollment during the 3rd month the 65th birthday month	6 months after the 65th birthday month

General Enrollment Period

If an individual misses enrolling during their Initial Enrollment Period, they have another chance to enroll during the General Enrollment Period

The General Enrollment Period is January 1st through March 31st

Coverage does not begin until July 1st

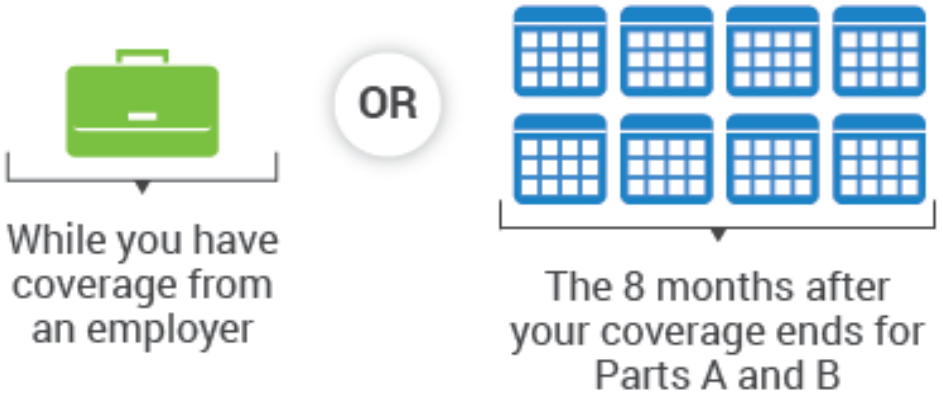


Late Enrollment Penalties

- Amount you pay in addition to monthly premium
- Applies to Medicare Part A, Part B, Part D
- How does it happen?
  - You miss your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)
  - Did not sign up within 8 months of losing certain types of coverage or within 63 days of losing creditable drug coverage
- Penalty can be deducted from Social Security payments or billed to you directly

What if I am still working?

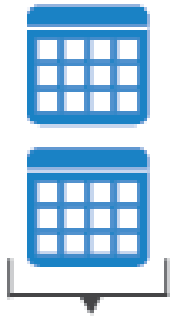
Delaying Part A and/or Part B Enrollment While Still Working



- Before delaying enrollment, you should know:
  - If your insurance will pay primary
  - If you will face delays, gaps in coverage, or penalties if you sign up later
- Special Enrollment Period (SEP)
  - If you are actively employed and covered by a group health plan you can delay Medicare enrollment and use Medicare Part B SEP to enroll later
  - No late enrollment penalty for delayed enrollment

Delaying Part D Enrollment While Still Working

- Before delaying Part D enrollment, you should know:
  - Whether you will have a Special Enrollment Period (SEP)
    - Individuals covered by creditable prescription drug coverage have a SEP
  - Whether you will have a Late Enrollment Penalty (LEP)
    - You do not have a penalty as long as you were covered by creditable drug coverage while eligible for Part D
    - If you delay Part D enrollment and do not have creditable drug coverage, you will likely have Part D penalty



The 63 days after your coverage ends for Parts C and D

Coordination of Benefits

Type of Insurance	Condition	Primary	Secondary
Age 65+ with insurance based on current employment	Fewer than 20 employees	Medicare	Employer Insurance
	20 or more employees	Employer Insurance	Medicare

Type of Insurance	Condition	Primary	Secondary
Disabled with insurance based on current employment	Fewer than 100 employees	Medicare	Employer Insurance
	100 or more employees	Employer Insurance	Medicare

Tips for Delaying Medicare While Still Working

- Always talk with the plan's administrator and Social Security to double check the rules
  - Write down **who** you spoke to, **when** you spoke to them, and the **result** of the conversation
- **Individuals should keep records of health insurance coverage**
- Most individuals should still sign-up for free Part A
  - **Exception:** taking any part of Medicare does not allow you or an employer to contribute to your own Health Savings Account.
- Losing COBRA does not give someone a Special Enrollment Period to sign up for Medicare Part B. It is not **active** employment coverage.

Retiree Health Plans

- Talk to your Human Resources Department or your Benefits Administrator about Retiree Health Plan benefits and how it works with Medicare.
- Retiree plans can vary in type, price and coverage.
- If dropped, it can be difficult to get back.
- Please bring retiree plan information when seeing an APPRISE counselor.

When Can I Switch Plans?

Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Period

You can join, switch or disenroll from a Medicare Advantage Plan or a Part D Plan during the Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Period

When Is the Open Enrollment Period?

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period

If you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan on January 1st you can switch or disenroll from your Advantage Plan during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period.

When Is the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period?

Annual MA OEP
January 1st through March 31st

OR

Individual MA OEP
The first 3 months of enrollment in Medicare Part A and B

MyMedicare Account

MyMedicare.gov

The Official U.S. Government Site for Medicare

Live Chat

Getting Started | Account Services | Claims Menu | My Health | Plans & Coverage | MSP & MSA | Security & Privacy | Customer Service

Getting Started

Registering online

Benefits

Signing in for the first time

MyMedicare.gov Help

Getting Started

Find information on how you can get started in registering for your own MyMedicare.gov account.

Benefits of using MyMedicare.gov

Registering with MyMedicare.gov gives you access to your personalized information at any time. Registering lets you:

Cost Savings Programs

Medicare Savings Programs	Extra Help Program	PACE and PACENET
Can help with the payment of the Medicare Part B Premium and other Medicare cost sharing depending on income/resources Application through County Assistance Office *Part B and Part D penalties waived	Can help to lower or eliminate Medicare Part D premium/deductible and lower prescription drug co-pays. Application through the Social Security Administration *Part D penalties waived A Medicare beneficiary with any level of Medicaid will automatically receive Full Extra Help	Will help to lower prescription drug costs. Application through the Pennsylvania Department of Agin Must be 65 or older *Part D penalties paid for by PACE

- **Read** all your **mail** from Medicare and your health plans.
- **Keep** all **communication** (including notes from phone calls).
- **If still working, alert** your **human resources** office (or that of your spouse) right away so they know you are on Medicare
- **Keep** your Medicare **card** & number **safe**.
- Make sure your provider accepts Medicare &/or the health plan you want. **Take** your **card(s)** with you to every medical appointment.
- **Replace lost cards**; contact the Social Security Administration or go to ***.ssa.gov
- If you suspect **fraud, report it.**

Help is Available

- APPRISE Telecenter: 1-800-783-7067
- Local APPRISE Office: Contact your local Area Agency on Aging
  **********.aging.pa.gov/aging-services/medicare-counseling
- Medicare: 1-800-MEDICARE or ***.medicare.gov

Help is Available

- Social Security: 1-800-772-1213 or ***.ssa.gov
- Your Employer Human Resources Department/Your Health Plan Administrator
- Benefits Coordination & Recovery Center: 1-855-789-2627
- PA Senior Medicare Patrol: 1-800-356-3606
- PA Health Law Project: 1-800-274-3258

Join APPRISE! Become a Volunteer

- Help us help people like you
- Learn more about Medicare
- Meet new friends
- Make a real difference in your community

Contact your local Area on Aging for more details or visit
**********.aging.pa.gov/Pages/Volunteer.aspx