

Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplaces

Medicare Eligibility and Enrollment Basics

Medicare Rights Center

- ❖ The Medicare Rights Center is a national, nonprofit consumer service organization that works to ensure access to affordable health care for older adults and people with disabilities through:
 - Counseling and advocacy
 - Educational programs
 - Public policy initiatives

This training will cover

- ❖ An introduction to Medicare
- ❖ Medicare Parts A and B costs and coverage
- ❖ Medicare eligibility
- ❖ Medicare Part A and B Enrollment Periods
- ❖ Medicare Part D eligibility and enrollment

Medicare

- ❖ Health insurance for people 65 and older and people with disabilities
- ❖ People of all income levels eligible
- ❖ Run by the government but can be provided by private companies
- ❖ Covers most medical services a beneficiary needs

Parts of Medicare

❖ Medicare benefits are administered through three parts

- **Part A** – Hospital/Inpatient Benefits
- **Part B** – Doctors/Outpatient Benefits
- **Part D** – Prescription Drug Benefit
 - Added 2006

❖ **What happened to Part C?**

- Private Health Plans (HMO, PPO)
 - Way to get Parts A, B and D through one private plan
 - Known as Medicare Advantage
 - Not a separate benefit

Getting Medicare benefits

❖ Original Medicare

- Traditional program
- Accepted by most doctors and hospitals in the country
- Supplemental insurance can help pay out-of-pocket costs (like deductible and coinsurance)

❖ Medicare Advantage (HMO, PPO)

- Began as Medicare + Choice in 1997
- Must offer the same benefits as Original Medicare, but can decide how and when someone can access them
 - Limit people to doctors and hospitals in the plan's network
- May offer additional benefits

Medicare costs keywords

❖ Premium

- The amount someone must pay for Medicare, a private health plan or Part D plan for coverage
- Generally paid on a monthly basis

❖ Deductible

- The amount an individual must pay for their health care services before their health insurance begins to pay

❖ Copay

- A set amount someone is required to pay for each medical service they receive (example: a person has to pay \$20 each time they go to the doctor)

❖ Coinsurance

- The portion of the cost of care that someone is required to pay after their health insurance pays (example: they pay 20% for most Medicare approved services)

Part A costs and coverage

❖ Part A covers:

- Inpatient hospital care
- Inpatient skilled nursing facility
- Home health care
- Hospice care

❖ Part A costs:

- **Premium:** Free for those with 10 years of Social Security work history
- **Hospital deductible:** \$1,216 in 2014 for each benefit period
- **Hospital copay:**
 - \$234 per day for days 61-90 for each benefit period
 - \$426 per day for days 91-150 (these are 60 non-renewable lifetime reserve days)
- **Skilled nursing facility copay:** \$147 per day for days 21-100 for each benefit period

Part B costs and coverage

❖ Part B covers:

- Doctor services
- Preventive care
- Durable medical equipment (DME)
 - Such as wheelchairs, walkers, oxygen tanks
- Home health care
- X-rays, lab, ambulance services
- Therapy services (PT/OT/ST)

❖ Part B costs:

- **Annual deductible:** \$147 in 2014
- **Monthly premium:** \$104.90 in 2014
 - People with high incomes pay more
- **Coinsurance:** Medicare pays 80% of Medicare-approved amount for doctors' services; beneficiaries pay 20% coinsurance
 - Exceptions: no coinsurance or deductible for certain preventive services; outpatient hospital copays cannot exceed the Part A deductible for that year



Medicare Eligibility

Medicare eligibility – 65+

- ❖ When someone turns 65, they qualify for Medicare if they:
 - Collect or qualify to collect Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits; OR
 - Do not qualify for Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits, they're a current US resident, and are either:
 - A US citizen, or
 - A permanent US resident (Green card holder) having lived in the US for 5 continuous years before they apply for Medicare

Medicare eligibility – under 65

Someone is eligible if:

- ❖ Someone has End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD or kidney failure) and they have enough Medicare work history; OR
- ❖ They have been getting Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Railroad Disability Annuity checks for total disability for at least 24 months
 - If someone has ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) there is no waiting period



Medicare Enrollment

Two main ways to enroll

1. Automatic Enrollment
2. Active Enrollment
 - Initial Enrollment Period
 - Special Enrollment
 - General Enrollment

1. Automatic enrollment

A person will automatically be mailed a Medicare card for Parts A and B if:

- They have enrolled to receive Social Security benefits before they turn 65
- They have a disability and have been receiving SSDI for at least 24 months
- They are getting SSDI because they have ALS

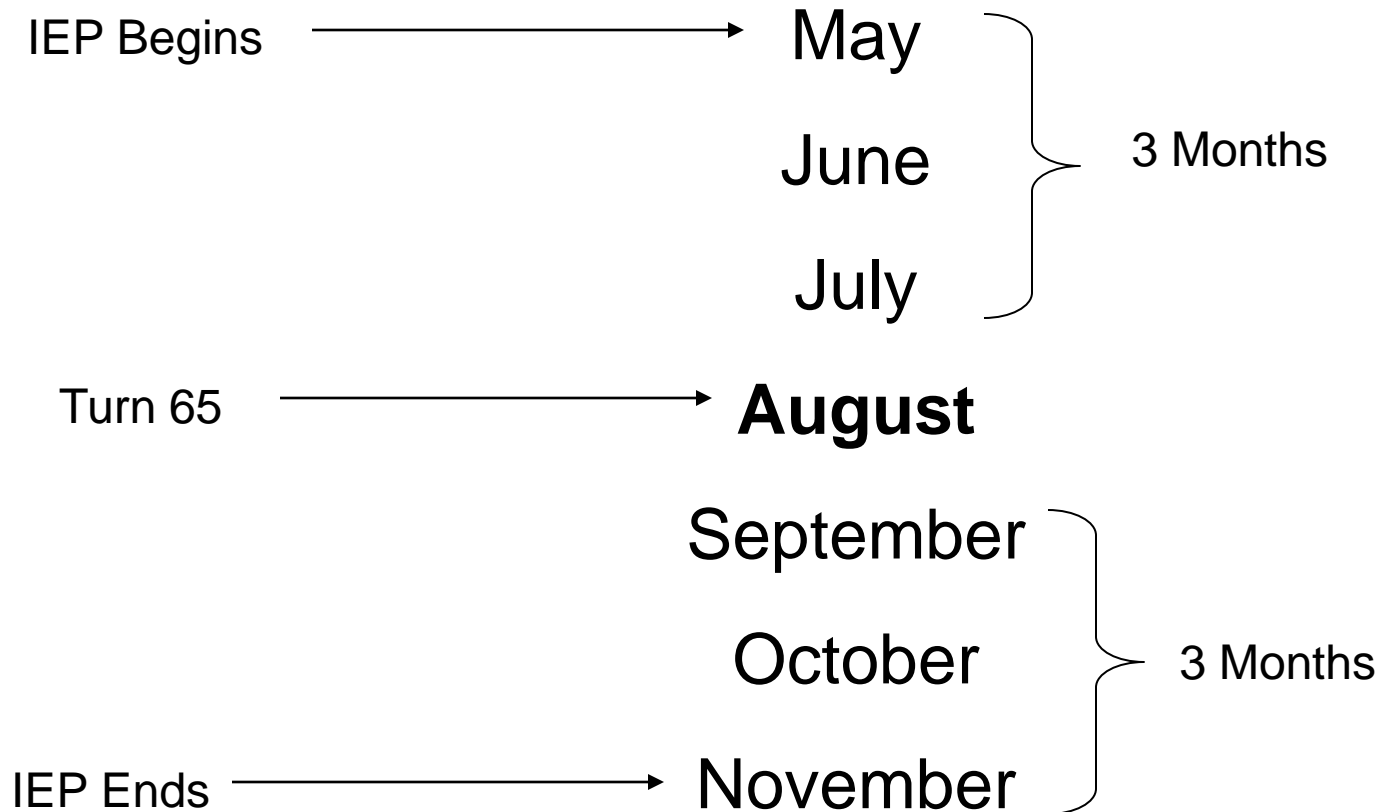
Active enrollment into Medicare

- ❖ People who have not signed up for Social Security when they turn 65
- ❖ People who do not have enough Social Security work history to qualify for premium-free Part A
- ❖ People who have Medicare Part A but declined Part B because they had insurance from a current employer

2. Active enrollment: Initial Enrollment

- ❖ If a person is not automatically enrolled:
 - They can enroll in Parts A, B and D during a 7-month period starting 3 months before their birthday month and ending 3 months after their birthday month
 - They should enroll 1-3 months before their birthday month to make sure their coverage begins by the time they turn 65

2. Active enrollment: Initial Enrollment



3. Active enrollment: Special Enrollment

- ❖ Special Enrollment Period to enroll in Part B up to 8 months after insurance from a current employer ends or the worker retires
- ❖ A person may use the Special Enrollment Period if they or their spouse are **actively working** and receive health coverage from that job
 - Some people delay Medicare B if they have employer insurance that is primary
 - If employer insures 20+ employees, then employer insurance is primary for Medicare beneficiaries age 65 or older

4. Active enrollment: General Enrollment

- ❖ If a person misses their Initial or Special enrollment periods, they can enroll in Parts A and/or B during **January 1- March 31** of each year
- ❖ Coverage will start **July 1**
- ❖ May have to pay a 10% Part B premium penalty for the rest of their life for every year they delayed enrollment

Consequences of delayed Medicare enrollment

- ❖ May pay higher premiums
 - People need to pay a premium penalty (extra premium charge)
- ❖ May have gaps in coverage
 - Can only enroll at a specific time of the year,
 - General Enrollment Period for Part B
 - The Fall Open Enrollment Period for Part D



Part D

Part D

- ❖ Outpatient prescription drugs
- ❖ Only available from private plans
 - Original Medicare:
 - Stand-alone private drug plan (PDP) – private plan offers only drug coverage
 - Medicare Advantage (private health) plan:
 - Generally get all Medicare benefits through one plan
- ❖ People with creditable coverage may not need Part D coverage
- ❖ All people qualify for Medicare Part D once they are enrolled in Medicare Part A and/or B

Enrolling into Part D

1. Initial Enrollment
2. Special Enrollment Period (SEP)
3. Fall Open Enrollment
 - ❖ Someone can enroll in a Part D plan or MA plan from October 15 to December 7 of each year

Enrolling into Part D

- ❖ If a person misses their initial or special enrollment periods, they can enroll during Fall Open Enrollment
- ❖ Coverage will start January 1
- ❖ May have to pay a 1% Part D premium penalty for the rest of their lives for every month they were without drug coverage

Should someone enroll in Part D?

- ❖ Do they
 - Have coverage at least as good as or better than Medicare's basic benefit (creditable)? They should typically keep it.
 - Qualify for Extra Help? This benefit is a good deal.
 - Have high drug costs? The Part D benefit will likely help.

- ❖ Even if someone does not have high drug costs right now, their situation could change and they may have gaps in coverage
 - They may also be subject to a penalty

For more information and help

❖ Local State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

- Find a SHIP phone number at www.shiptalk.org

❖ Medicare

- 800-MEDICARE (663-4227)
- www.medicare.gov

❖ Medicare Rights Center

- 800-333-4114
- Medicare Interactive (see next slide)

Medicare Interactive

❖ Medicare Interactive

- www.medicareinteractive.org

❖ Web-based compendium developed by Medicare Rights to be used as a counseling tool to help people with Medicare

- Easy to navigate
- Clear, simple language
- Answers to Medicare questions and questions about related topics, for example:

“How do I choose between a Medicare private health plan (HMO, PPO or PFFS) and Original Medicare?”

- 1.1 million annual visits and growing

Dear Marci e-newsletter



- ❖ Timely, understandable answers to Medicare questions
 - ❖ Links to deeper exploration of topics
 - ❖ Additional resources and health tips
 - ❖ Released every two weeks
-
- Sign up on our web site:
MedicareRights.org/about-mrc/newsletter-signup.php

Medicare Rights University

- ❖ Web-based curriculum that empowers professionals to better help their own clients, patients, employees, retirees, and others navigate Medicare
 - Beta tested with 30+ companies and nonprofits
- ❖ Four levels with four to five courses each
- ❖ Courses organized by knowledge level
 - Free assessment
- ❖ Quizzes and downloadable course materials
- ❖ Builds on 25 years of Medicare Rights Center counseling expertise
- ❖ For details, visit MedicareRightsUniversity.org or contact Scarlet Watts: 212-204-6285 , swatts@medicarerights.org.

Medicare Rights University

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WELCOME TO MEDICARE RIGHTS UNIVERSITY!

The screenshot shows a video player interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, About, Course List, Webinars, Glossary, Store, Register, and Logout. The main content area displays a slide from a video. The slide features the Medicare Rights University logo and the text: "Medicare Rights University", "Level 1: Medicare Basics", and "Course 1: Health Insurance Terms". Below the text is a map of the United States. The video player controls at the bottom show a progress bar with a play button, a timestamp of 02:23, and a volume icon. Below the progress bar, there are two sections: "Course Materials" with a link to "Level 1 Course 1 Slide Deck" and "Supplementary Materials" with a link to "Health Terms Handout". A red box highlights the "Apply What You've Learned Handout" link.