



# Understanding the A,B,Cs & Ds of Medicare

Presented by:  
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# What is the difference between:

## Social Security

Pension program for individuals ages 62+ and the disabled. SSA also enrolls people onto Medicare.

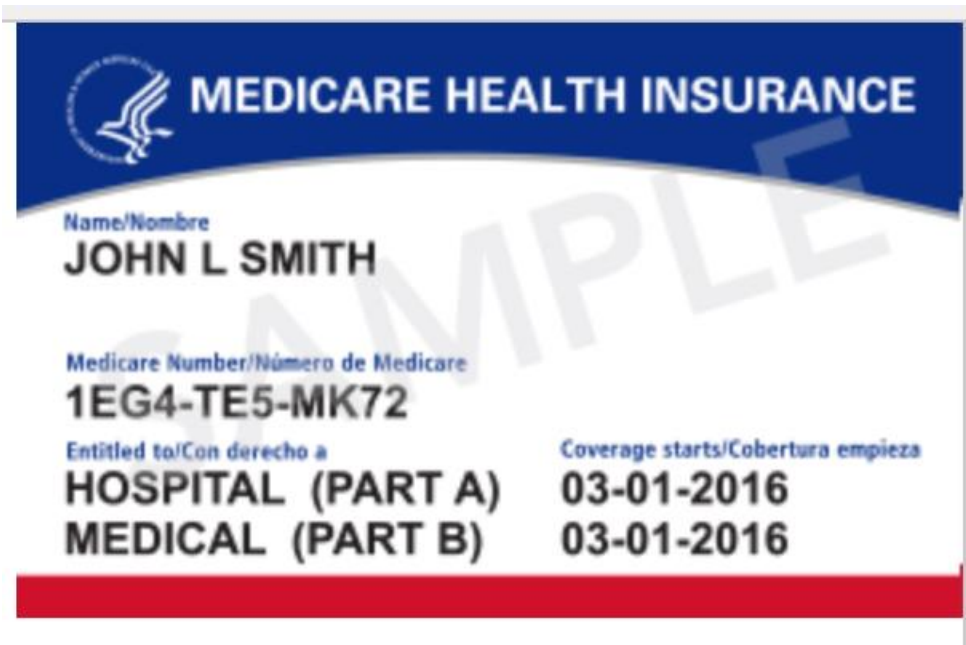
## Medicaid

Program to provide health care for individuals with limited income and resources.

## Medicare

**Health insurance** for an individual age 65 or older and individuals with a qualifying disability.

# Medicare Basics: Part A and Part B



The image shows a Medicare Health Insurance card for John L. Smith. The card has a blue header with the Medicare logo and the text "MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE". Below the header, the cardholder's name is listed as "JOHN L SMITH". The Medicare Number is "1EG4-TE5-MK72". The card also lists the coverage start dates for Part A and Part B, both of which are "03-01-2016". A large, light gray "SAMPLE" watermark is overlaid on the card.

<b>MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE</b>	
Name/Nombre <b>JOHN L SMITH</b>	
Medicare Number/Número de Medicare <b>1EG4-TE5-MK72</b>	
Entitled to/Con derecho a	Coverage starts/Cobertura empieza
<b>HOSPITAL (PART A)</b>	<b>03-01-2016</b>
<b>MEDICAL (PART B)</b>	<b>03-01-2016</b>

# Medicare Premiums

## Part A (Hospital)

Most people pay no monthly premium.

## Part B (Medical)

In 2023, typically \$164.90/mo.  
(higher incomes pay more)

Deducted from your SSA check or billed quarterly.

## Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount for Part D

If your 2021 income (for what you pay in 2023) was above Medicare-established threshold amounts, you will pay an additional monthly premium (deducted by SSA).

	<b>Annual Income</b> (modified adjusted gross income)	<b>Additional Monthly Premium</b>
<b>Single</b>	<b>\$91,000</b>	<b>\$68.00 - \$408.20</b>
<b>Married</b>	<b>\$182,000</b>	<b>\$68.00 - \$408.20</b>

# Basic Medicare Coverage

## PART A

### Hospital Stays

In 2023 you pay:

- \$1,600 per stay, days 1-60
- \$400 per day, days 61-90
- \$800 per day, days 91-150

## PART B

Doctor office visits

X-rays

Outpatient surgery

Emergency care

Ambulance

Urgent care

In 2023 you pay:

- \$226 annual deductible then 20% co-insurance.

# What isn't covered by Medicare?

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- Dental
- Alternative Care
- Long Term and Personal Care
- Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids
- Care Outside of the U.S.

# Signing Up for Medicare

## If you are already collecting Social Security

- Automatically enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B.
- Your Medicare card will arrive about 3 months before your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday

## If you are not yet collecting Social Security

- Contact Social Security to sign up for Medicare (2-3 months before your birthday)
- Or apply online at [www.SSA.gov](http://www.SSA.gov)
- Bend Social Security Office phone number: 1-877-405-0302



# Special Considerations

## **If you are already covered by an employer insurance plan:**

- If the employer has 20+ employees, you can delay Part B without penalty.
- Contact SSA to sign up for Part B within 8 months of retiring.

## **If you delay Part B and you have no other health insurance:**

- If no employer or other health insurance coverage, you can sign up between January – March each year. Part B coverage begins the first of the following month.
- 10% annual premium penalty will apply.

# Questions?

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# Is Basic Medicare Enough?

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## **If you only have Basic Medicare:**

- 20% not covered by Medicare could be a significant expense.
- Medicare does not have an out-of-pocket limit on total expenses.

## **Ways to add more coverage:**

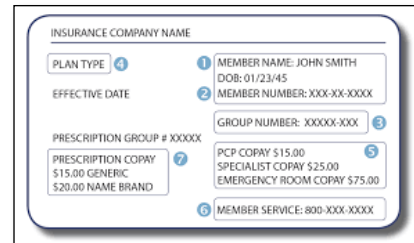
- Medicare Supplement Plan (Medigap)  
+ optional Part D Prescription Plan
- Medicare Advantage Plan  
“all-in-one” plans with Part D Prescription Plan included

# Medicare Supplement vs. Medicare Advantage

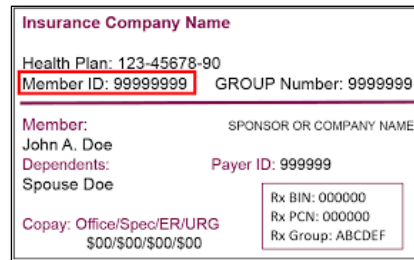
Medicare Card



Supplement Card



Prescription Card  
(Part D)



## Private Health Plan

Plan: Essentials Rx 14 (HMO)  
Member Name: Jane L Smith  
Member ID #: 112345000  
PCP: John L Provider

Rx ID 1234567890 Medicaid Rx ID 1234567890  
RxBin 004336 RxGroup RX8631 RxPCN MEDDADV  
Issue Date 01/01/17 Issuer # 80840 Contract # H3864\_014

- ✓ Medical
- ✓ Part D Rx
- ✓ Dental

## Includes:

- Medicare Benefits
- Extra Benefits
- Part D Rx (optional)

# How to Identify The Right Plan for You

- Things to consider:
  - Your medication list
  - Providers you see (or want access to)
  - Your monthly budget
  - Your anticipated health needs
  - Travel plans (snowbird?)
  - Veteran status
  - Carrier's reputation for service

# Medicare Supplement Plans (Medigap)

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- Medicare billed first (primary).
- The supplement pays after Medicare.
- There are 12 Standardized Medicare Supplement plans:
  - A, B, C\*, D, F\*, High-deductible Plan F\*, G, High-deductible Plan G, K, L, M and N.

*Plans marked with an (\*) are not available to Medicare beneficiaries who started Medicare after 1/1/20.*

# Medicare Supplement Plans (Medigap)

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- Typically helps pay for Medicare-covered services only.
- See any provider (doctor) that accepts Medicare.
- Limited foreign travel emergency coverage.
- Monthly premiums based on age and sex (often higher for men).
- You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B monthly premium.

# Medicare Advantage Plans (Part C)

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- You still have Medicare, but the plan is billed directly
- Often include “extras” like vision, hearing, gym membership (Silver Sneakers or Silver&Fit)
- Generally pay a “co-pay,” but protected by annual out-of-pocket maximum.
- See providers in the plan’s network (except in an emergency).
- Monthly premiums are not based on age or sex.
- You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B monthly premium.



# Questions?

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# Part D: Prescription Drug Benefits



# Part D Prescription Coverage

- Designed by Medicare, but you can only buy a Part D plan from private insurance companies
- A lifetime late enrollment penalty may apply if you have been on Medicare and you haven't had any prescription coverage
  - Waived for VA, Tricare, and many employer plans
  - Limited enrollment opportunity for Part D (Oct. 15 – Dec. 7 each year)

# Adding Medicare Part D

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- **Medicare + stand-alone Part D Prescription Plan**
- **Medicare + Supplement Plan + stand-alone Part D Plan**
- **A Medicare Advantage Plan with Part D Plan included**



# Extra Help for Part D



# Extra Help with Medicare Part D

## Income and Asset Guidelines

	<b>Gross Annual Income (below 150% FPL)</b>	<b>Assets*</b>
<b>Single</b>	<b>Less than \$20,628</b>	<b>Less than \$15,550</b>
<b>Married</b>	<b>Less than \$27,828</b>	<b>Less than \$30,950</b>
	<b>Contact Social Security to apply for Extra Help.</b>	

*\*Assets do not include the value of your home or car. These amounts may change each year.*



# Timelines for Enrolling in a Medicare Plan



# New to Medicare?

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**You can apply for either:**

- **Medicare Supplement Plan:** Within 6 months on Medicare (guaranteed acceptance). Add Part D separately, within 3 months on Medicare.

-OR-

- **Medicare Advantage Plan:** Within 3 months on Medicare (guaranteed acceptance). Choose a plan with Part D included, if desired.



# Already on Medicare?

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**You can apply for either:**

- **Medicare Supplement Plan:** You can change supplemental plans each year during your birthday month (per Oregon Birthday Rule).

-OR-

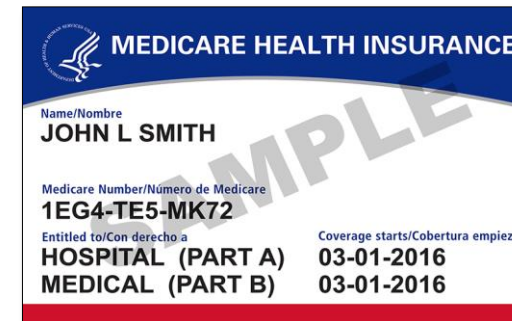
- **Medicare Advantage Plan:** During the Annual Election Period (October 15<sup>th</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>) every year. Coverage begins January 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period

If you are already on a Medicare Advantage plan, you can make **one** additional plan change between **January 1<sup>st</sup>** and **March 31<sup>st</sup>** every year (this rule does not apply to supplemental plans).



Switch to another  
Medicare Advantage plan  
(with or without prescription coverage)



Disenroll from Medicare Advantage  
to return to Original Medicare  
(and buy a stand-alone Part D prescription plan)

# Common Special Enrollment Opportunities

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- You've recently moved.
- You're leaving an employer group health plan.
- You qualify for the "Extra Help" program.
- Other qualifying life events.



# Resources for Additional Information

# Resources

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- **SHIBA** (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance): Call 541-678-5483 for an appointment with a certified counselor
- **Local Insurance Broker:** Meet with an independent, licensed insurance broker who specializes in Medicare plan. Visit [www.healthcare.Oregon.gov](http://www.healthcare.Oregon.gov) and click on “Find local help,” at the top of the page.
- **Medicare:** Visit [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov) or call 1-800-Medicare

# Questions?

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## Contact Information:

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