



Your Medicare Open Enrollment Guide

Medicare plans can change premiums, provider networks, pharmacies, and drug coverage each year. Use enrollment season to confirm that your coverage still fits - even if you decide to keep it.

OCT 15

Open Enrollment begins

DEC 7

Enrollment requests due

JAN 1

Approved changes take effect

WHICH ENROLLMENT WINDOW APPLIES?

WHEN THIS APPLIES	WINDOW	DATES	WHAT IT MEANS
Already have Medicare	Fall Open Enrollment	Oct. 15 - Dec. 7	Review or change Medicare Advantage and Part D coverage.
Newly eligible	Initial Enrollment	7 months around age 65	Begins 3 months before the month you turn 65 and ends 3 months after it.
In Medicare Advantage	MA Open Enrollment	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Make one plan change or return to Original Medicare.
A life or coverage event occurred	Special Enrollment	Event-specific	May follow events such as moving or losing employer or union coverage. Deadlines depend on the event.
Missed another enrollment opportunity	General Enrollment	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Enroll in Part B; coverage generally starts the month after enrollment. A late penalty may apply.

BEFORE YOU DELAY ENROLLMENT

PART B LATE-ENROLLMENT PENALTY

The monthly premium may increase 10% for each full 12-month period you could have had Part B but did not enroll. The penalty generally lasts as long as you have Part B.

PART D LATE-ENROLLMENT PENALTY

Going 63 days or more in a row without Part D or other creditable prescription drug coverage may trigger a penalty that generally lasts while you have Part D.

WORKING PAST 65?

Do not assume any health coverage lets you delay Part B without a penalty. Confirm whether your coverage is based on your or your spouse's current employment before delaying enrollment.

HAVE AN HSA?

Medicare enrollment affects HSA contribution eligibility. If you delay Medicare past 65, premium-free Part A can be retroactive for up to 6 months, so coordinate your final HSA contribution before applying.

MOVE HEALTH: A VALUE-ADDED MEDICARE RESOURCE FOR G SQUARED CLIENTS

Move Health can provide Medicare education, coverage comparisons, and enrollment support. G Squared can coordinate the financial-planning pieces, including IRMAA, HSA timing, taxes, and retirement cash flow.

6 MONTHS BEFORE

Schedule Medicare 101 and build a transition game plan.

60-90 DAYS BEFORE

Apply for Medicare Parts A and B, when appropriate.

WHEN YOUR ID ARRIVES

Finalize and enact your Medicare coverage choices.

EACH YEAR

Complete a Medicare 'Tune-Up' during Open Enrollment.

AFTER A MAJOR CHANGE

Review within 30 days of a move, loss of employer coverage, or major diagnosis.

Move Health is an independent Medicare resource. Availability and scope of services may vary.



Choosing Coverage and Coordinating Costs

Begin with the healthcare you actually use. A lower premium may not mean a lower total cost when prescriptions, providers, travel, and expected services are covered differently.

TWO CORE PATHS - PLUS ONE SUPPLEMENT

ORIGINAL MEDICARE

Parts A and B are administered by the federal government. Provider access is broad, but Original Medicare has no annual out-of-pocket limit for Part A and Part B services.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Part C plans are offered by private insurers and replace how you receive Parts A and B. They often include drug coverage and extra benefits, but usually use networks and plan rules.

MEDIGAP

A private supplement used only with Original Medicare to help pay certain cost-sharing. It usually sits alongside a separate Part D plan and cannot be paired with Medicare Advantage.

COVERAGE PATH COMPARISON

DECISION POINT	ORIGINAL MEDICARE + OPTIONAL MEDIGAP	MEDICARE ADVANTAGE
Providers	Any provider accepting Medicare	Usually a plan network
Drug coverage	Separate Part D plan generally	Often included
Annual Part A/B OOP limit	None under Original Medicare	Plan sets a limit
Travel	Broad U.S. access	Service-area rules apply
Rules to verify	Assignment and Medigap terms	Networks, referrals, prior authorization

FLEXIBILITY CHECK

Could switching limit your future options?

Medigap protections are strongest during the six-month Medigap Open Enrollment Period. Outside protected periods, underwriting or other limitations may apply depending on the situation and state.

COST CHECK

What could coverage cost in a typical year?

Add premiums, deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, prescriptions, and realistic out-of-pocket exposure. Then weigh provider access and plan rules.

2026 MEDICARE COSTS

Item	2026 figure
Part A inpatient deductible	\$1,736 / benefit period
Part A coinsurance, days 61-90	\$434 / day
SNF coinsurance, days 21-100	\$217 / day
Part B standard premium	\$202.90 / month
Part B annual deductible	\$283
Part D annual OOP threshold	\$2,100

2026 IRMAA TIERS - 2024 MAGI

Individual / Joint	Part B total	Part D add-on
\$109k or less / \$218k or less	\$202.90	\$0.00
\$109,001-\$137k / \$218,001-\$274k	\$284.10	\$14.50
\$137,001-\$171k / \$274,001-\$342k	\$405.80	\$37.50
\$171,001-\$205k / \$342,001-\$410k	\$527.50	\$60.40
\$205,001-\$499,999 / \$410,001-\$749,999	\$649.20	\$83.30
\$500k+ / \$750k+	\$689.90	\$91.00

IRMAA applies per person, per month. Part D amounts are added to the plan premium. Married-filing-separately rules differ.

YOUR SIX-PART ANNUAL REVIEW

PROVIDERS | PRESCRIPTIONS | TOTAL COST | ACCESS | TRAVEL | EXPECTED CARE

Medicare premiums and IRMAA surcharges directly affect your retirement cash flow, which is why we build them into your income plan. Your G Squared advisor can help you model how premiums, IRMAA, and coverage costs interact with your withdrawal strategy, and can refer you to a licensed, independent Medicare professional for plan selection.

Sources: Medicare.gov, Costs and Special Enrollment Periods; CMS, 2026 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles; Move Health, Medicare Overview (January 2025).