

# MEDICARE *Choices* MADE EASY!



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**For The Expanded Online Guide Visit;** [www.lonestarmedicare.net/choices-guide](http://www.lonestarmedicare.net/choices-guide)





*If you will have Medicare in the near future or if you're already enrolled, it's good to understand your insurance choices. Making good ones can lead to better health care and financial security. The truth is that Medicare A & B by itself is not enough. There are gaps to fill and many things that aren't covered. So how do you make your insurance choices and keep your sanity along the way? Well, it starts right here. This guide is short & sweet and after reading it you'll be headed in the right direction. Let's get started with the foundation of Medicare.*

## Medicare A & B

There are 5 parts to Medicare, which we cover in the different sections of this guide. The foundation of Medicare are parts A & B. **Medicare Part A covers you for hospitalization** and **Medicare Part B covers you for doctors and outpatient care**. Medicare Part A is usually \$0 monthly cost because you've paid for it in full during your working lifetime. The monthly cost of Part B can vary, depending on when you enroll and your income. In 2021 most people will pay \$148.50 per month for Part B. In addition to a monthly cost, there are out of pocket costs when you receive medical care. These are items such as deductibles, copay's, and co-insurance that are typical with medical insurance. Because Medicare A & B does not set annual limits to these costs, it's clear that it's not intended to be had alone. It is this reason most people need to supplement their Medicare with some kind of extra coverage.

*Medicare A & B, by itself, does not set annual limits on your out of pocket medical expenses. It also does not include coverage for pharmacy and other ancillary benefits like dental & vision. These are the two main reasons to have a Medicare Supplement or an Advantage Plan.*

## Medicare Supplements

Medicare Supplements are one way to fill the gaps and enhance your Medicare coverage. As secondary insurance, they help you cover medical bills under Medicare A & B. These bills are the deductibles and co-insurance that you would normally have to pay out of pocket without a supplemental policy. By helping you pay for these costs, Medicare Supplements are designed to give you more financial security and better access to quality healthcare.



Medicare Supplements are offered by a variety of private insurance companies. Each plan is represented by a letter, for example; Plans G and N are the 2 most popular plans available today. The letter that represents a plan means the amount of coverage you get with it. This coverage is the same at any insurance company that offers that letter plan. This helps make it easier for you to compare the same coverage at the different companies. Although the coverage is the same for any letter plan at different insurers, the monthly premiums may not be.



Visit the expanded version of this guide online for more details on Medicare Supplements. Type or click: [www.lonestarmedicare.net/choices-supplements](http://www.lonestarmedicare.net/choices-supplements)





## Medicare Supplement Key Benefits



- ✓ **Helps cover medical costs so you have very low or no out of pocket bills.**
- ✓ **Allows you to choose any doctor or provider that accepts Medicare.**
- ✓ **Can help you have physical, mental, & financial well being.**

### Medicare Advantage

Medicare Advantage, also known as "Part C", are health insurance programs provided by private insurance carriers. Medicare Advantage plans do not supplement Medicare, they replace it. Advantage Plans provide the same benefits under Parts A & B, but will usually include extra coverage. This extra coverage can be for prescription, dental, vision, and fitness club benefits. Medicare Advantage plans will also include manageable co-pays for medical care with caps on your out of pocket. The good news is that, in many cases, you can get all of these extra benefits for little or no extra cost.



Visit the online guide for more Medicare Advantage info;

[www.lonestarmedicare.net/choices-advantage](http://www.lonestarmedicare.net/choices-advantage)

Medicare Advantage Plans usually have networks of doctors and there are 2 main types of plans; HMO's and PPO'S. PPO's have doctor networks but allow you to get care at any Medicare doctor. PPO's also do not require referrals from your primary care physician. HMO Plans require that you only use doctors under the plan, except in cases of emergency. There are, however, benefits to these restrictions. HMO's are known for providing many extra benefits and low copays for medical care. When considering an Advantage Plan for coverage, you should review it's "Summary of Benefits" so you understand the details

### Medicare Advantage Key Benefits

- ✓ **Includes A & B Medical benefits & extra coverage like Rx, dental, & vision.**
- ✓ **Helps make out of pocket medical costs more manageable.**
- ✓ **Little or \$0 extra monthly premium to what you pay for Medicare A & B.**

### Part D Prescription Coverage

Part D is prescription coverage for medications that you fill at the pharmacy. You can have Part D as a single "stand alone" plan or included with a Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C). If you keep Traditional Medicare and get a Medicare Supplement; you will need a stand alone Part D plan. Part D is provided by private insurers who have a contract with Medicare. The monthly premiums, coverage, and costs vary with the different plans, however, they will each follow guidance set by Medicare.







**Part D Plans** have a monthly premium and may have deductibles & copays when you fill your medications. For any particular plan, monthly premiums are the same for everyone and are not based on your health or the number of medications you take. When evaluating your options, you should consider how plans cover your current and possible future medication needs. Review the Summary of Benefits and list of covered medications (formulary) for any plans you are researching.

This guide is for educational purposes. Always review your insurance policy, outline of coverage, or summary of benefits for details. Coverage and estimated premiums mentioned in this guide are not guaranteed. Plans may be subject to eligibility and underwriting at the time of enrollment.

## Take The Next Step!

**Contact your agent below by phone or email with your questions and to get more details on insurance plans available in your area.**

- Get all your questions answered and find a clear path.
- Compare several quality plans and insurance providers, find your best coverage & cost.
- Services are provided to you conveniently by phone, email, and mail.

**There is no fees or obligation for any of our services.**

### About Your Agent Ben Rodriguez

Throughout his career as a Licensed Insurance Agent, Ben Rodriguez has helped over 1,000 Medicare recipients. Since obtaining his degree in Business Finance from Kent State University, Ben has acquired over 15 years of experience in financial services and insurance. Having a close relationship with his parents and grandparents has made him especially in tune to the needs of boomers and seniors. Ben is known for his professionalism with a personal touch.



Phone 512-537-7847 direct line  
Email: [ben@lonestarmedicare.com](mailto:ben@lonestarmedicare.com)

Offering plans with select top insurance providers;

**Humana.**

**aetna**

**Cigna**

**Mutual of Omaha**

**BlueCross BlueShield**







# MEDICARE *Cheatsheet*

This cheat sheet organizes the main topics and frequently asked questions with starting Medicare. You can read each section then click on the website link to be directed to a web page for more details. You can also type in the exact web page address into your web browser to visit the particular page. Tiny URL is a web page address shortening service. It is used here to make it easier to type in website addresses.

**WHAT IS MEDICARE AND WHAT DOES IT COVER?** Medicare is federal health insurance for people 65 and older, on disability, and people with End Stage Renal Disease. Medicare consists of 5 Parts; Part A Hospital Insurance, Part B Medical & Doctor, Part C, Part D, & Medicare Supplement.

## **Click Or Type Web Address**

For more information visit;  
<https://tinyurl.com/yajxwvdz>

**WHAT COSTS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH MEDICARE?** Medicare costs include premiums and medical cost sharing. A premium is the cost you pay to have the coverage, typically monthly or quarterly. Cost sharing is what you pay when you have medical care such as deductibles and copays. Most people do not pay a premium for Part A, however, there is a charge for Part B. The Part B premium can vary from year to year and is \$148.50 in 2021. Individuals with high incomes may pay more than the standard premium.

For up to date Medicare costs visit;  
<https://tinyurl.com/y8pf3nj4>

Check your eligibility and estimate premiums:  
<https://www.medicare.gov/eligibilitypremiumcalc>

**WHEN AM I ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE?** **You are eligible for Medicare;**  
**1.The month you turn age 65.** 2.Have disability for 24 months. 3. When you have End Stage Renal Disease or you have ALS and get disability. This is called your Initial Enrollment Period. You are also eligible for Medicare if you are 65 or older and deferred enrollment because you had other insurance, such as through an employer. This is called a Special Enrollment Period.

For more information visit;  
<https://tinyurl.com/y83pbwf3>

**WHAT OTHER COVERAGE CAN I HAVE WITH MEDICARE?** There are two ways to receive your benefits; Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage (Part C). You can have only one or the other. If you have Original Medicare you can also purchase a Medicare Supplement policy and a Part D prescription plan.

For more information visit;  
<https://tinyurl.com/y9aebemh>

**WHEN SHOULD I SIGN UP FOR MEDICARE?** If you are receiving Social Security payments prior to turning 65, you are automatically enrolled and don't need to apply. If you are not receiving Social Security, you'll need to apply. You can submit your application 3 months prior to the month you turn 65. This is called your "Initial Enrollment Period."

For more information visit;  
<https://tinyurl.com/ybyfppjy>

## **HOW DO I ENROLL IN MEDICARE?**

There are 3 ways to enroll; 1. Apply Online 2. Call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 and schedule an appointment to enroll by phone. 3. Enroll In Person - You can walk in to your local Social Security office and apply.

Apply Online <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/> Find your local social security office: <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>





# MEDICARE *Checklist* FOR TURNING 65

## 10 - 12 MONTHS FROM MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY

- ☐ Learn about Medicare, it's different parts, and costs.
- ☐ Check on your eligibility for Medicare.

## 7 - 9 MONTHS FROM MEDICARE

- ☐ Start determining if you'll be signing up for just Part A or both A & B. Most people sign up for both unless you will have other creditable coverage, like through an employer group.
- ☐ Learn about the 2 ways you can have your Medicare; Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage (Part C).
- ☐ Learn about Medicare Supplement (Medigap) insurance and Part D.

## 4 - 6 MONTHS FROM MEDICARE

- ☐ Get information on coverage choices available to you for Medicare Supplement, Medicare Advantage, and Part D prescription in your area. You can call us at 855-625-7633 or email us at [ben@lonestarmedicare.com](mailto:ben@lonestarmedicare.com) to request the info.
- ☐ You are eligible to enroll in a Medicare Supplement Policy 6 months prior to starting Medicare. This is known as your Medigap Initial Enrollment Period.

## 1 - 3 MONTHS FROM MEDICARE

- ☐ Determine whether you'll need to apply for Medicare or if you'll be automatically enrolled. If necessary, apply to enroll in Medicare. Remember most will need to enroll in both A & B unless you will have other creditable insurance.
- ☐ If you've decided to do so, you are now eligible to enroll in a Part D Prescription Plan or Part C / Medicare Advantage Plan.
- ☐ If you have decided to pick up a Medigap / Medicare Supplement Plan and haven't done so, apply for coverage.





# MEDICARE Quiz

With Medicare, most people have 2 essential choices; Medicare Supplements or Medicare Advantage. This tool is created to help you save time and understand which Medicare options may be best for you.

## Instructions

**Step 1** - Answer the questions below, choose only one answer per question.

**Step 2** - At the bottom, add up your points based on the answers you provided.

**Step 3** - After adding up your points, grade yourself to see which type of plan may be best for you.

**Question 1** - Do you have medical / health insurance now?

Answer A: No

Answer B: Yes

**Question 2** - What is your current monthly cost for your insurance?

Answer A: \$0 - \$150 per month

Answer B: \$150 - \$250 per month

Answer C: \$250 or more per month

**Question 3** - Which feature is most important to you with your health coverage?

Answer A: Having a low or moderate monthly cost for my plan.

Answer B: Having low medical deductibles and out of pocket.

**Question 4** - To have your most ideal Medicare plan, how much are you able and willing to pay for your total monthly cost?

A: \$150 /month or less B: \$150 - \$200 / month

C: \$200 - \$250/month D: \$250 - \$300 / month

**Question 5** - How often do you go to the doctor or need medical care?

Answer A: Hardly Ever

Answer B: Occasionally

Answer C: Often

**Question 6** - When you are given 3 choices for anything you might be buying, which option do you usually go with?

Answer A: The lowest price

Answer B: The best value (Moderate price with good benefits)

Answer C: The best, most expensive

## **Step 2: Total Your Points**

For all questions, each letter answer is worth these points;

A Answers: 1 point each    B Answers: 2 points each

C Answers: 3 points each    D Answers: 4 points each

## **Step 3: Grade Yourself**

**6 - 8 Points:** Medicare Advantage is most likely your best fit.

**9-11 Points:** Medicare Advantage is most likely your best fit but you should evaluate & compare all options.

**12-14 Points:** Medicare Supplements are most likely your best fit but you should compare them with Medicare Advantage.

**15 - 17 Points:** Medicare Supplements are more than likely your best fit.



**After Grading Your Quiz, Contact us** for more guidance and details on plans available to you.

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512.537.7847

