

Medicare Considerations

Turning 65? Here's what you need to know about Medicare.

What is Medicare?

Medicare is health insurance for people age 65 and older, under age 65 with certain disabilities, and any age with End-Stage Renal Disease. Medicare is not your Social Security or disability benefit.

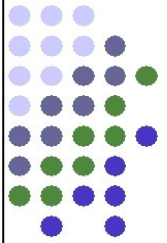
What must I do if I am 65 or close to 65 and retiring?

You Must:

- Enroll in Medicare Part A 3 months prior to your 65th birthday.
- Enroll in Medicare Part B before leaving active employment.
- Enroll in Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage (if you do not elect COBRA after leaving employment).
- Call Social Security to apply for retirement benefits if you are eligible.
- ❖ *You can complete all of these enrollments by contacting Social Security at 800-772-1213 or visiting your local Social Security office.*

Your Other Options:

- *You may elect COBRA after you leave your job:* By electing COBRA, you may continue on your current benefits for 36 months after you leave active employment. You must enroll in Part B before electing COBRA.
- *Consider whether you want to enroll in a Medicare Advantage Plan:* These are plans that are approved by Medicare and offered by private insurance companies. They provide Part A and Part B coverage.
- *Consider whether you want to buy a Medigap policy:* These are supplemental policies offered by private insurance companies that help pay for some of the costs that Original Medicare (Parts A and B) does not.



What do I do if I am 65 or over and will continue to work?

You Must:

- *Enroll in Medicare Part A 3 months prior to your 65th birthday:* You can do this by contacting Social Security at 800-772-1213 or visiting your local Social Security office.

Important Things to Know:

- *You do not need to sign up for Part B until 3 months before you stop working.* If you're currently covered under health insurance from your employer, your health insurance from work is the primary payer, and Medicare is secondary (for employers with 20 or more employees).
- *You should not sign up for Part D IF your employer offers prescription drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare's Part D Prescription Drug Coverage.* Your employer will send all employees an official notice each year that states that the current health plan provides "Creditable Coverage." You should keep this for your records.

This information is provided as a summary of Medicare benefits. Your individual situation may be different. For more comprehensive information, please contact Social Security at (800) 772-1213 or visit Medicare.gov.

