

We will begin shortly

MEDICARE, WHO ME?

**Presented by Roma Costanza
PPACG Area Agency on Aging-
Senior Insurance Assistance
'Your local SHIP program.'**

10/3/2024

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Who We Are:

Our mission is to help older area residents remain in their homes by removing barriers to independent living. We assist with the coordination and development of a comprehensive system of services for older persons in El Paso, Park and Teller counties and provide leadership and advocacy for the needs and concerns of the elderly.



PPACG Area Agency on Aging

Senior Insurance Assistance/SHIP

The Colorado **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)** provides Medicare beneficiaries with free and unbiased in-depth, one-on-one insurance counseling and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries, their families, friends, and caregivers with:

- Original Medicare, Medicare Advantage (Part C), Medicare Prescription Drug (Part D), Medicare Supplemental (Medigap)
- Insurance plans for retirees
- Applying for programs to assist those with low or limited incomes
- **We service 9 counties in Colorado: El Paso, Park, Teller, Lake, Custer, Chaffee, Fremont, Huerfano and Las Animas]**

Colorado Springs 1-719-635-4891
State-wide 1-888-696-7213



SHIP

State Health Insurance
Assistance Program
Navigating Medicare



SMP

Senior Medicare Patrol

Preventing Medicare Fraud



PIKES PEAK
AREA AGENCY ON AGING
Answers • Assistance • Advocacy



Pikes Peak Area
Council of Governments
Communities Working Together

What is Medicare?

Medicare Has Three Parts

Part A Hospital
Insurance



Part B Medical
Insurance



Part D Prescription
Coverage



Part C Advantage/
Health Plans



Who Runs Medicare?

► Social Security Administration

- Determines eligibility for Medicare
- Processes Medicare enrollment
- Replaces Medicare cards
- Provides toll-free customer service

**Contact Social
Security
Administration**

(800) 772-1213
(7a – 7p) or
www.ssa.gov

► Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

- Administers program
- Processes claims
- Determine Benefits
- Pays Providers
- Provides toll-free customer service (24/7)

1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

Who Can Have Medicare?

- ▶ US Citizen that is age 65 & older
 - With contribution into the Social Security system or Railroad Retirement System
- ▶ Any age on Social Security Disability
- ▶ Any age receiving kidney dialysis (ESRD)
- ▶ Any age with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS)
- ▶ Lawfully admitted aliens
 - Residing in the US for 5 consecutive years

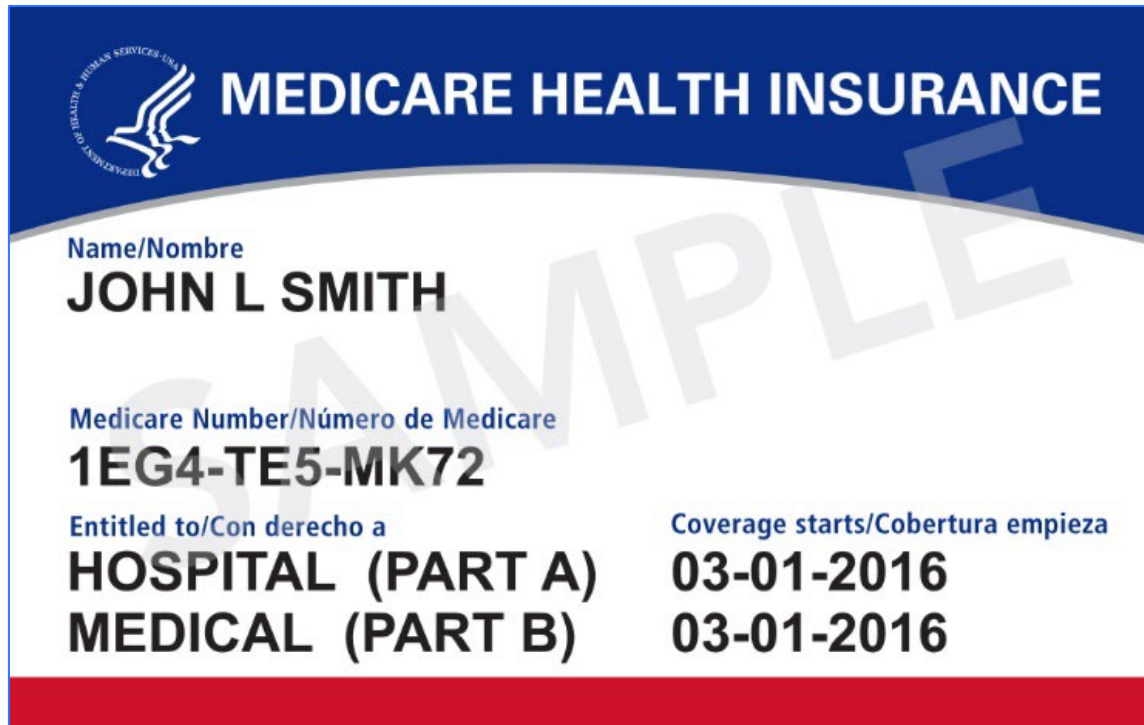
When to enroll in Medicare

- ▶ You don't have to be retired
- ▶ Your **I**nitial **E**nrollment **P**eriod (**IEP**)
 - Lasts 7 months
 - Begins 3 months before your 65th birthday
 - Includes the month you turn 65
 - Ends 3 months after you turn 65
- ▶ There are other times you may enroll
 - But you may pay a penalty if you delay

Enrollment Periods

Enrollment Period	Begins	Ends
Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)	3 months before the month of birthday	3 months after the month of birthday
Special Enrollment Period (SEP)	the month after you lose employer coverage – based on active employment	8 months after coverage ends
General Election Period (GEP) Penalty may apply	January 1st	March 31 st Coverage begins 1 st day of the following month

Medicare Card





What You Can Do Online

www.socialsecurity.gov

APPLY FOR BENEFITS

Apply for Social Security retirement/spouse's benefits	www.socialsecurity.gov/applyforbenefits
Apply for Social Security disability benefits	www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability
Apply for Medicare	www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly
Apply for Extra Help with your Medicare prescription drug costs	www.socialsecurity.gov/i1020

ESTIMATE YOUR FUTURE BENEFITS

Create a my Social Security account to get your <i>Social Security Statement</i> : • Check your earnings record; and • See estimates of your potential benefit amounts.	www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount
Get your retirement benefit estimate	www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator
Use our benefit planners to calculate your retirement, disability, and survivors benefits	www.socialsecurity.gov/planners

IF YOU GET BENEFITS

Create a my Social Security account and: • Get your benefit verification letter; • Check your benefit and payment information and your earnings record; • Change your address and phone number; • Start or change direct deposit of your benefit payment; and • Get a replacement SSA-1099/10425.	www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount
Get a replacement Medicare card	www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount

You may be able to use your free **my Social Security** account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to request a replacement Social Security card online, as long as you live in one of the participating states or the District of Columbia, are not requesting a name change or any other change to your card, and you meet other requirements.

Find answers to frequently asked questions at
www.socialsecurity.gov/faq



Medicare 2024

Medicare.gov website has been updated to be more user friendly

- All beneficiaries are encouraged to create a MyMedicare.gov account
- Will be key aspect of using the Medicare Plan Finder during the Annual Open Enrollment Period to review Part D and Advantage Plan options
- (Oct 15 - Dec 7)

Create an Account for a Personalized Medicare Plan Finder Experience

When you create an account, you can:

- Build a better drug list. We'll make suggestions based on prescriptions you filled within the last 12 months.
- Modify your drug list and save changes.
- Compare benefits and costs in your current plan to other plans available in your area.
- See prices based on any help you get with drug costs.

Create your new account

If you want access to personalized information and features, you'll need to create an account. Visit [Medicare.gov/plan-compare](https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare) and click "Log in or create account."

Have the following information ready (for yourself or the person you're helping):

1. Medicare Number – You can find this on your red, white, and blue Medicare card. If you're new to Medicare and don't have your Medicare card yet, you can get your Medicare number on the letter you get from Social Security after you enroll.
2. Last name
3. Date of birth
4. Current address with ZIP code or city
5. Part A or Part B coverage start date (find this on your Medicare card)



Once you add this information and select "Next," you can create a username and password and use your new Medicare account. You can write your username and a password hint below. Just remember to keep this sheet in a safe place to protect your privacy.

My Username:

My Password Hint:

Forgot your username or password?

If you have an existing account, but forgot the username or password, click "Trouble signing in?" under the Username box on the log in page. You'll need this information:

1. Medicare number
2. Last name
3. Date of birth



CMS Product No. 12064
August 2019

Part A



Do I need to sign up for Part A?

► Things to Consider

- You get it automatically if already collecting Social Security/RRB income benefits
- Are you/your spouse actively working and covered by employer plan?
 - May be able to delay enrollment
- Not covered by employer health coverage through 'active' employment?
 - There may be a penalty if you delay

Part A- How much does it cost?

- ▶ Most people receive Part A premium free if they have 40 working quarters (10 Years of work)
- ▶ Those with less than 40 working quarters pay a premium as high as \$505 per month for 2024
 - Eligibility and working quarters are determined by Social Security
 - Contact Social Security to sign up

Part A: Hospital Insurance



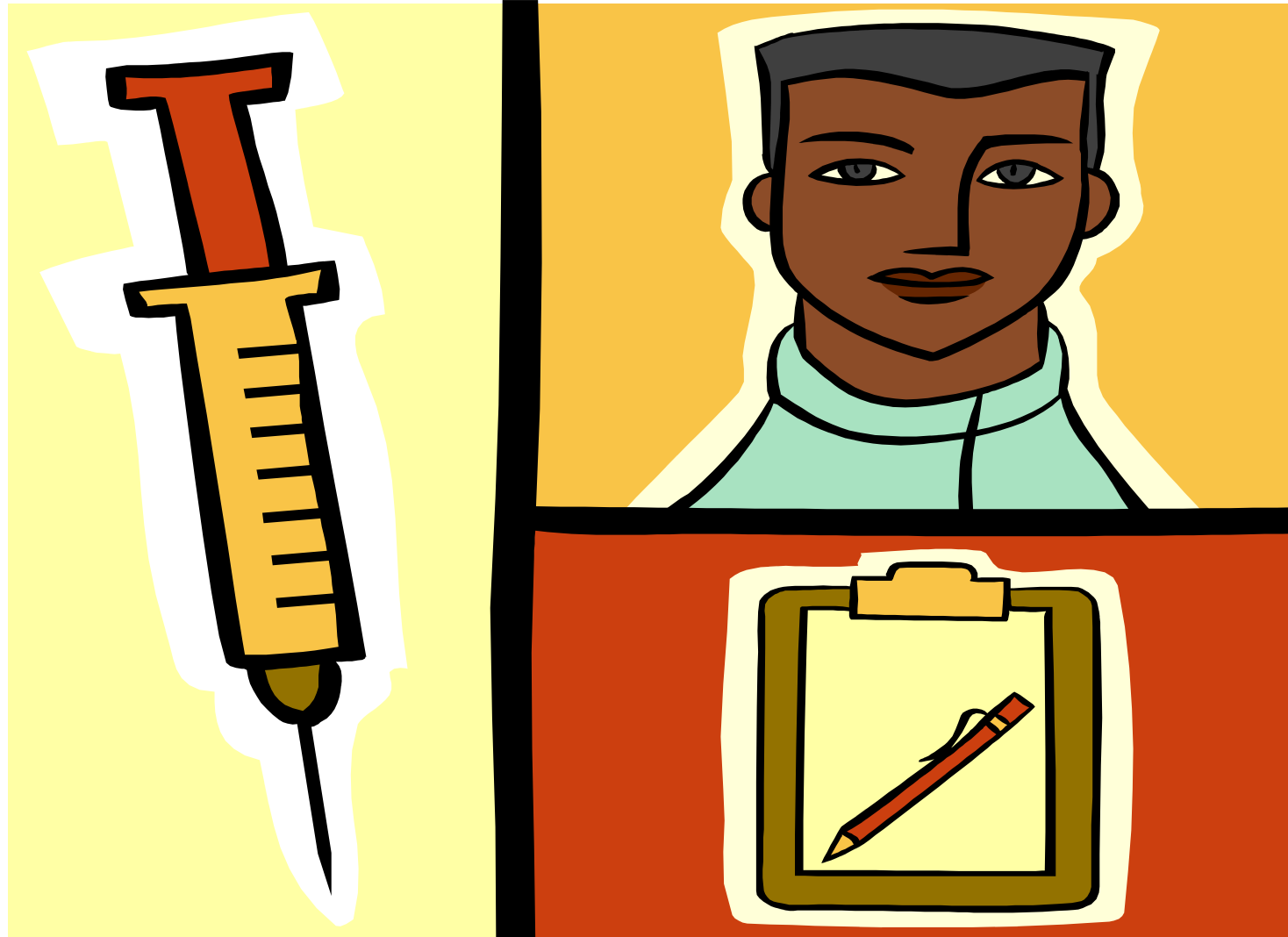
Part A: Inpatient Hospital Stay

- ▶ Hospital Coverage 2024 amounts
 - \$1,632 Deductible each Benefit Period (Days 1-60)
 - \$408 co-insurance/per day (Days 61-90)
 - \$816 co-insurance/per day (Days 91+) Lifetime Reserve days
 - All costs after Lifetime Reserve days (60) are exhausted
- ▶ Benefits Period Defined
 - 90 days of hospital care if needed
 - New benefit period starts when no care was provided inpatient at a hospital or SNF for 60 days
- ▶ Psychiatric Hospital
 - Maximum 190 lifetime days in a participating psychiatric hospital

Medicare Part A: Non-Covered Services

- ▶ Private Room*
 - Unless medically necessary and doctor ordered
- ▶ First three pints of blood**
- ▶ Private duty nursing/sitters
- ▶ Self administered drugs

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)



Part A: Skilled Nursing Benefits

- ▶ Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) 2024 costs
 - 3 or more days inpatient hospital stay required
- ▶ **Day 1-20 each benefit period**
 - All covered services paid 100% by Original Medicare
 - Benefits may be different with Advantage plans
- ▶ **Day 21-100 each benefit period**
 - Medicare pays all covered services EXCEPT a co-insurance rate of \$204 per day
- ▶ Beginning on **day 101**
 - Patient pays all costs- Medicare benefit exhausted

Medicare Part A



Home
Health
Care &
Hospice

Part A: Home Health Care & Hospice Care

- ▶ Requires doctor to certify eligibility
- ▶ Deductibles usually do not apply
- ▶ 100% payment of “home health care” services
 - 80% for DME
- ▶ Some limits apply

Medicare Part B Costs



Should I keep/sign up for Part B?

Consider

- ▶ You get it automatically if already collecting Social Security/RRB income benefits
 - Usually deducted from SSA/RRB benefits
- ▶ Are you/your spouse actively working and covered by employer plan?
 - May be able to delay enrollment
 - May pay a penalty if delayed enrollment for any other reason
- ▶ Most people pay a monthly premium
 - Amount depends on income

Should I keep/sign up for Part B?

- ▶ If you are still working and have Group coverage
 - You may want to delay Part B
 - No penalty if you enroll while you are ACTIVELY working
 - Will get SEP*
- ▶ **Special Enrollment Period (SEP)***
 - You have 8 months to get Medicare without a penalty after employment ends
- ▶ **General Enrollment Period (GEP)**
 - Was not working with Group Coverage
 - Enroll between Jan 1 – March 31, coverage starts 1st day of month following enrollment
 - May have a penalty

Part B- How much does it cost?

► Monthly Medicare Part B premium

- \$174.90* base premium for 2024
- Taken by automatic payment monthly from
 - Social Security check, Railroad retirement or Federal government pension check
 - May be billed directly if not receiving one of the above incomes

► Late Enrollment Penalty

- Penalty is 10% per year x number of years, added to monthly premium-FOREVER!

*Part B premiums are means tested based on annual income

Part B- How much does it cost?

Means Tested Premiums for 2024

Annual income		Monthly premium in 2024
Individual	Couple	
Equal to or below \$103,000	Equal to or below \$206,000	\$174.70
\$103,001 - \$129,000	\$206,001 - \$258,000	\$244.60
\$129,001 - \$161,000	\$258,001 - \$322,000	\$349.40
\$161,001 - \$193,000	\$322,001 - \$386,000	\$454.20
\$193,001 - \$500,000	\$386,001 - \$750,000	\$559.00
\$500,000 and above	\$750,000 and above	\$594.00

Part B- How much does it cost?

► **Your Part B out-of-pocket costs**

- \$240.00 Annual deductible for 2024
- After the Annual Deductible is met, Medicare pays 80% of approved amount for most Part B services



Medicare Part B

Medical Insurance

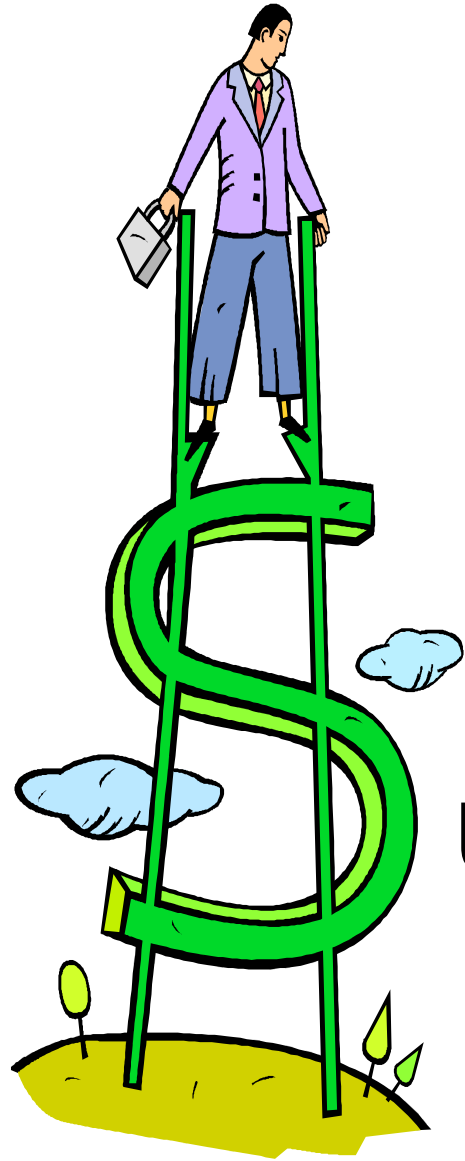
Part B: Covered Services

- ▶ Doctors
- ▶ Lab/X-ray
- ▶ Medical/Surgical/Anesthesia, Second Opinion
- ▶ Blood beginning with the 4th pint
- ▶ Ambulance (emergency)
- ▶ Annual flu shots, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia shot, Shingle's vaccine**
- ▶ PT/OT/ST (with limits)
- ▶ Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
- ▶ Limited coverage for other services (with medical necessity):
 - Chiropractic
 - Podiatry
 - Optometry

Part B: Preventative Services

- ▶ Welcome to Medicare Preventive Visit*
- ▶ Annual 'Wellness' Review*
- ▶ Many more services:
 - Cardiovascular screening
 - Colorectal screening
 - Diabetes screening services and supplies
- ▶ *Medicare & You for more detailed info
 - Blue Apple symbols





Medigap

Supplement Coverage

What is a Medigap?

- ▶ Health insurance policies:
 - Sold by private insurance companies
 - Follow federal and state laws that protect you
 - Must say “Medicare Supplement Insurance”
 - Cover “gaps” in original Medicare
 - Standardized policies A through N
 - Except in Massachusetts, Minnesota, Wisconsin
- ▶ Costs may vary
 - *By plan
 - *company
 - *where you live
- ***If it's not covered by Medicare, it not covered by Medigap***

How Medigap Works

- ▶ Only works with **Original Medicare**
 - You don't need a Medigap policy if you have
 - Medicare Advantage Plan
 - Some other Medicare Plans
 - Other Creditable coverage
 - TriCare for Life
 - Retirement Plan: PERA, Federal retirement, etc...
- ▶ Can go to any doctor, hospital or provider that accepts **original** Medicare anywhere in the US*
 - Most portable option if you move/travel for extended periods

Buying a Medigap

- ▶ May be able to buy at any time
 - Subject to Underwriting
- ▶ **Best time** is during **Guarantee Issue**
 - Also called **Open Enrollment** period
 - Last for 6 months
 - Starts of the first day of the month you are
 - Age 65 or older AND enrolled in Part B
 - First entitled to Part B at any age
- ▶ Once 6-month Medigap Guarantee Issue period begins, it can't be stopped or changed
 - Once it expires you cannot get another one except in special situations or a **Special Enrollment Period**



Buying a Medigap cont....

► Special **E**nrollment **P**eriods

- 'Involuntary Loss of Creditable Coverage'
- Loss of **C**reditable Coverage
 - Employer coverage ends from 'active' employment
 - Employer Retirement coverage that coordinated with Medicare, ends
 - Includes COBRA
- Medicare Advantage
 - Using a **T**est **D**rive, etc...
 - Will discuss in detail next

2024 STANDARDIZED MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLANS

Jan2024 PPACG/AAA RCostanza

Plan A	Plan B	Plan C	Plan D	Plan F*	Plan G*	Plan K	Plan L	Plan M	Plan N
Basic benefits including 100% Part B coinsurance	Basic benefits including 100% Part B coinsurance	Basic benefits including 100% Part B coinsurance	Basic benefits including 100% Part B coinsurance	Basic benefits including 100% Part B coinsurance	Basic benefits including 100% Part B coinsurance	Hospitalization and preventive care paid at 100%; other basic benefits paid at 50%	Hospitalization and preventive care paid at 100%; other basic benefits paid at 75%	Basic benefits including 100% Part B coinsurance	Basic benefits including 100% Part B coinsurance except up to \$20 copay for office visit and up to \$50 copay for ER
		Skilled Nursing Facility Coinsurance	Skilled Nursing Facility Coinsurance	Skilled Nursing Facility Coinsurance	Skilled Nursing Facility Coinsurance	50% Skilled Nursing Facility Coinsurance	75% Skilled Nursing Facility Coinsurance	Skilled Nursing Facility Coinsurance	Skilled Nursing Facility Coinsurance
	Part A Deductible	Part A Deductible	Part A Deductible	Part A Deductible	Part A Deductible	50% Part A Deductible	75% Part A Deductible	50% Part A Deductible	Part A Deductible
		Part B Deductible		Part B Deductible					
				Part B Excess (100%)	Part B Excess (100%)				
		Foreign Travel Emergency	Foreign Travel Emergency	Foreign Travel Emergency	Foreign Travel Emergency			Foreign Travel Emergency	Foreign Travel Emergency

2024 Basic Benefits include:

- Part A Hospital coinsurance
 - 61-90 days: \$408/day
 - 91-150 days: \$816/day (lifetime reserved days)
 - Beyond 150 days: 100% for 365 days
- Parts A and B Blood Deductible (first three pints)
- Part B Coinsurance: 20% of Medicare approved charges
- Part A Hospice Care Coinsurance or Copayment

Foreign Travel: Pay 80% of the billed charges for certain medically-necessary emergency care outside the U.S. after you meet a \$250 deductible for the year. \$50,000 lifetime max.

Out-of-pocket limit for 2024 of \$7,060; paid at 100% after limit reached

Out-of-pocket limit for 2024 of \$3,530; paid at 100% after limit reached

Part A Deductible for 2024 is \$1,632 per admission

Part B Deductible for 2024 is \$240/year

Skilled Nursing Facility Coinsurance for 2024 is \$204/day for days 21 - 100

* Plan F and G High Deductible- in addition to the standard plan benefits for Plan F and Plan G, these plans are also available in a High Deductible plan. This means you pay the balance after Medicare pays their part for covered services until you spend \$2,800 out of your pocket for the year. Once you have met that deductible amount, these plans will start paying the balance after Medicare for the rest of the year.

FOR BENEFICIARIES ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE PRIOR TO 1/1/2020, Plan C and Plan F are still available in some situations.

FOR BENEFICIARIES ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE ON OR AFTER 1/1/2020, Plan C and Plan F are not available to purchase.

Medicare Supplement Insurance Policies in Colorado

September 2023

A Guide to “Medigap” Policies in Colorado

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Sponsored by the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and the Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI)



Age 65

Monthly Premium Rates for Age 65 Non-Smoker in Zip Code 80202

Company Name	Notes	Sex	A	B	C	D	F	F - Hi	G	G - Hi	K	L	M	N
Nassau Life Insurance Company of Kansas 1-800-420-5382	AA, AC, HD, PF (\$25), Pre-Ex (9)	Female	140.00				145.00		125.00					91.00
		Male	161.00				167.00		144.00					105.00
National Guardian Life Insurance Company 1-800-548-2962	AA, HD, PF (\$25)	Female	166.00				161.00		134.00					105.00
		Male	191.00				186.00		155.00					121.00
National Health Insurance Company 1-866-916-8816	AA, HD	Female	131.00				163.00	52.00	134.00					112.00
		Male	148.00				184.00	59.00	151.00					126.00
Old Surety Life Insurance Company 1-866-272-5466	IA, PF (\$20), Pre-Ex (6)	Female	109.00				156.00		126.00					
		Male	125.00				173.00		145.00					
Pan American Life Insurance Company 1-877-939-4550	AA, HD, PF (\$25)	Female	182.00				213.00		172.00					125.00
		Male	209.00				245.00		197.00					143.00
Physicians Life Insurance Company 1-800-325-6300	IA/Plan A, AA all others, AC, HD	Female	157.00				138.00	55.00	118.00	54.00				
		Male	174.00				153.00	61.00	131.00	60.00				
Resource Life Insurance Company 1-312-356-3000	AA, AC	Female	100.00				142.00		114.00					
		Male	111.00				158.00		127.00					
SBLI USA Life Insurance Company, Inc. 1-877-990-7225	AA, AC, HD, PF (\$25)	Female	138.00				136.00		129.00					89.00
		Male	159.00				156.00		148.00					102.00
Sentinel Security Life Insurance Company 1-800-247-1423	AC, HD, PF (\$25), Pre-Ex (6)	Female	228.00	252.00	309.00	245.00	309.00		165.00					177.00
		Male	262.00	289.00	355.00	282.00	355.00							203.00
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Contact Local State Farm Agent)	AA, AC	Female	122.00		184.00	131.00	186.00		131.00					99.00
		Male	132.00	156.00	164.00	136.00	166.00	50.00	137.00				128.00	107.00
State Mutual Insurance Company 1-877-822-0582	AA, AC, HD, PF (\$25)	Female	118.00	139.00	146.00	121.00	148.00	44.00	122.00				115.00	96.00
		Male	132.00	156.00	164.00	136.00	166.00	50.00	137.00				128.00	107.00
The American Home Life Insurance Company 1-833-504-0334	AC, HD	Female	122.00				145.00		123.00					89.00
		Male	141.00				166.00		141.00					102.00
The EPIC Life Insurance Company 1-800-236-8809	AA, AA, HD	Female	125.00		169.00		169.00		153.00		92.00	120.00		139.00
		Male	137.00		186.00		186.00		168.00		101.00	132.00		153.00
The Order of United Commercial Travelers of America 1-800-848-0123 (Membership required)	AA, AC	Female	150.00	194.00	237.00	213.00	243.00		210.00					167.00
		Male	173.00	223.00	272.00	245.00	280.00		242.00					192.00
The United States Fire Insurance Company 1-866-523-9332	AA, AC, HD, PF (\$25)	Female	132.00	155.00			154.00		127.00	47.00	61.00	77.00		96.00
		Male	152.00	178.00			177.00		146.00	54.00	70.00	89.00		111.00
Transamerica Life Insurance Company - Group Assoc. 1-800-752-9797	IA, AC, Pre-Ex (6)	Female	161.00	209.00	249.00	229.00	251.00		199.00		99.00	147.00	181.00	170.00
		Male	161.00	209.00	249.00	229.00	251.00		199.00		99.00	147.00	181.00	170.00
Transamerica Life Insurance Company 1-800-752-9797	IA, AC, Pre-Ex (6)	Female	116.00	154.00	182.00	143.00	183.00		143.00		68.00	101.00	124.00	117.00
		Male	128.00	168.00	199.00	157.00	200.00		157.00		74.00	110.00	136.00	128.00
United American Insurance Company 1-800-733-2137	AA, AC, Pre-Ex (2)	Female	107.00	182.00	199.00	192.00	183.00	32.00	141.00	32.00	92.00	130.00		121.00
		Male	123.00	209.00	229.00	220.00	211.00	37.00	162.00	37.00	106.00	150.00		139.00
United Insurance Company of America 1-800-634-9106	AA, AC, HD, PF (\$15)	Female	130.00			134.00	170.00		136.00	53.00				112.00
		Male	143.00			148.00	187.00		149.00	58.00				124.00
United Of Omaha Life Insurance Company 1-800-667-2937	AA, AC, HD	Female	141.00		205.00	170.00	231.00	60.00	184.00	48.00				116.00
		Male	160.00		231.00	193.00	262.00	68.00	208.00	54.00				131.00
Union Security Insurance Company 1-833-532-0827	AA, AC, HD, PF (\$25)	Female	146.00				185.00		144.00					104.00
		Male	168.00				212.00		163.00					120.00
USAA Life Insurance Company 1-800-515-6300	AA, AC	Female	102.00				185.00		156.00					117.00
		Male	102.00				185.00		156.00					117.00

Information provided by the companies to the Colorado Division of Insurance in Spring 2022. Premium rates may change at any time.

Medicare Advantage Plans



3/2024

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People In Medicare Advantage Plans

- ▶ Are enrolled in a private insurance plan that has contracted directly with Medicare to provide Medicare benefits
- ▶ Still have Original Medicare but the Advantage Plan replaces coverage as PRIMARY
- ▶ Still have Medicare rights and protections
- ▶ Still get all regular Medicare-covered services
- ▶ May get extra benefits
 - Such as vision, hearing, dental care, gym memberships
- ▶ Plan usually include prescription drug coverage (Part D)

Who Can Join?

- ▶ Eligibility requirements:
 - Must live in plan service area
 - Be enrolled in Medicare Part's A and B
 - Can only enroll during an 'eligibility period'
 - With exceptions



When Can People Join or Switch Plans?

▶ Initial **E**nrollment **P**eriod (**IEP**)

- A person can join a Medicare Advantage Plan or other Medicare plan when first eligible for Medicare
- 7 months surrounding 65th birthday/eligibility

▶ During specific enrollment periods

- **A**nnual **E**lection **P**eriod (**AEP**)-Open Enrollment Period
- Annual **M**edicare **A**dvantage **O**pen **E**nrollment **P**eriod (**MAOEP**)
- **S**pecial **E**nrollment **P**eriods (**SEP**)

Annual Election Period (AEP)

October 15 through December 7

- ▶ Can get into, get out of or switch from one plan to another plan:
 - Medicare Advantage Plan
 - Medicare prescription drug plan
 - Original Medicare Plan
- ▶ New plan starts January 1

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MAOEP)

- ▶ January 1 –March 31
- ▶ Change effective first day of following month
- ▶ **If already in an Advantage Plan**, you can:
 - Change to a different plan, with or without Rx coverage
 - Get out of your Advantage Plan and go back to Original Medicare
 - Enroll in Part D
- ▶ If **not** in an Advantage Plan you cannot enroll in an Advantage plan or a Part D plan or change your Part D plan during this period

Special Enrollment Periods

▶ **Special Enrollment Periods**

- Move out of the plan's service area and can't take the plan with you
- Plan leaves the Medicare program or your service area
- Lost other Creditable Coverage

▶ **Test Drive**

- Get out of an Advantage Plan
- Have Guarantee Issue into a Medigap

Out-of-Pocket Costs

- ▶ Must still pay Part B premium
- ▶ May pay additional monthly premium
 - Many zero premium Advantage Plans available
- ▶ Will have to pay other out-of-pocket costs
 - Co-payments, coinsurance and deductibles for services

How Do MA Plans Work?

- ▶ Generally, get all Medicare-covered services through the plan
- ▶ Can include prescription drug coverage
 - a.k.a. (Part D)
- ▶ Will have to see certain doctors or go to certain hospitals to get care
 - Emergency care covered anywhere in the U.S.
- ▶ Benefits and cost sharing will be different from Original Medicare Plan

Medicare Advantage Plans-2023

- ▶ Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)
- ▶ Preferred Provider Organization (PPO)
- ▶ Medicare Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS)
- ▶ Medicare Special Needs Plans (SNPs)
 - For those on Medicare and Medicaid
- ▶ Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
 - For those eligible for LTC facility care, keeps you in the community
- ▶ Medicare Savings Account (MSA)
 - None in Colorado
- ❖ **List of all plans available in CO in the Colorado-specific Medicare & You handbook**
- ❖ **Go to www.Medicare.gov or call 1 (800) Medicare
(1-800-633-4227)**

Rights in MA Plans

- ▶ Access to health care providers
- ▶ Know how doctors are paid
- ▶ Fair, efficient, and timely appeals process
- ▶ Fast appeals in certain health care settings
- ▶ To get the health care services they need
- ▶ To receive easy-to-understand information
- ▶ To have their personal medical information kept private

Comparing Medicare Health Plans

- ▶ Are prescription drugs covered?
- ▶ Do I need to choose a primary care doctor?
- ▶ Are the hospitals, doctors and facilities in my area participating with these plans?
 - Call the doctors office and medical facilities directly
- ▶ How do I access the supplemental benefits, such as dental and vision?
 - ▶ Do I have to get permission from the Plan or other rules?
- ▶ What else do I need to know about this type of plan?



*****ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS AND BE SURE
TO GET REAL ANSWERS*****

Medicare Advantage Plans:

Options for Colorado Consumers



Navigating Medicare

State Health Insurance Assistance Program
Colorado Division of Insurance

Toll free 1-888-696-7213
En Español sin cargo
1-886-665-9668

This product was supported, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.

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Medicare Savings Program (MSP)

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Medicare Savings Program 2024**

Income Limits

QMB*	(Single) \$1,275	(Couple)	\$1,724
SLMB*	(Single) \$1,526	(Couple)	\$2,264
QI*	(Single) \$1,715	(Couple)	\$2,320

*All amounts include \$20 disregard added

2024 Asset Levels for QMB,SLMB,QI

(Single)	\$9,430	(Couple)	\$14,130
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- Does **not** include home, primary vehicle, personal possessions
- Does count checking, savings, CD's, IRA's, stocks, bonds, etc.
- May add \$1500 per person for burial allowance

**Income and asset limits change each year

Medicare Part D

Prescription Drug Coverage



What is Medicare Part D?

- ▶ The prescription drug benefit of Medicare
- ▶ For outpatient prescription drugs only
- ▶ Plans have formularies
 - Lists of covered drugs
 - Must include range of drugs in each category
- ▶ You pay the plan a monthly premium
- ▶ You pay deductibles and copayments
- ▶ There is “Extra Help” to pay Part D costs
 - If you have limited income and resources

Should I Enroll in a Part D plan?

- ▶ It's optional
 - You can choose a plan and join
- ▶ Enrolled in Medicare Part A **or** Part B or both
- ▶ Do you already have creditable drug coverage?
 - Coverage as good as Medicare's
 - For example, through an employer plan, VA benefits
 - **No penalty if you delay**
 - Will that coverage end when you retire?
- ▶ How much do your current drugs cost?
- ▶ What do the premiums cost for Part D plans?
- ▶ **Without creditable coverage**
 - Later enrollment may mean you pay a penalty

Part D Enrollment Periods

- ▶ **Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)**
 - 7-month period when people first get Medicare
- ▶ **Annual Election Period (AEP)**
 - October 15 – December 7 each year
 - Coverage begins January 1
- ▶ **Special Enrollment Period (SEP)**
 - In some situations

Part D Penalty

- ▶ Waiting to enroll could mean a penalty
 - 1% premium increase for every full month eligible but did not enroll
 - Based on national average benchmark premium
 - **\$34.70/mo in 2024**
 - Exception: Creditable coverage
 - Lasts for as long as enrolled in Medicare Rx coverage
 - No penalty for those qualifying for “Extra Help” (LIS)

Medicare Part D

Income-related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAA) 2024

If your filing status and yearly income in 2022 was:

File individual tax return	File joint tax return	File married & separate tax return	You pay each month (in 2024)
\$103,000 or less	\$206,000 or less	\$103,000 or less	your plan premium
above \$103,000 up to \$129,000	above \$206,000 up to \$258,000	not applicable	\$12.90 + your plan premium
above \$129,000 up to \$161,000	above \$258,000 up to \$322,000	not applicable	\$33.30 + your plan premium
above \$161,000 up to \$193,000	above \$322,000 up to \$386,000	not applicable	\$53.80 + your plan premium
above \$193,000 and less than \$500,000	above \$386,000 and less than \$750,000	above \$103,000 and less than \$397,000	\$74.20 + your plan premium
\$500,000 or above	\$750,000 or above	\$397,000 or above	\$81.00 + your plan premium

Part D Coverage



Part D Basic Plan 2024

DEDUCTIBLE

Beneficiary pays 100% to \$545

INITIAL COVERAGE ZONE

Beneficiary pays 25% (\$1,257.50)

Plan pays 75% (\$3,772.50)

Initial coverage ends when total drug costs = \$5,030

COVERAGE GAP (“Donut Hole”)

Beneficiary pays 25% for plan covered Brand name drugs and 25% for plan covered generic drugs

Total Cost of Drugs during Gap \$6,333.75

Gap ends when total drug costs= \$12,477

CATASTROPHIC COVERAGE

(begins after beneficiary has spent \$8,000)

Plan pays 100% and beneficiary pays \$0 thru Dec.31,2024

Changes coming to Part D in **2025** and beyond

- ▶ \$2000 annual max. out-of-pocket
- ▶ Copay payment plans
 - Medicare.gov includes 'wizard' to show breakdown of payments based on Rx added
- ▶ Medicare negotiating lower costs on Brand name Rx to be effective in 2026
 - Will negotiate for more Rx every year after that

Part D Basic Plan **2025**

DEDUCTIBLE

Beneficiary pays 100% to \$590

INITIAL COVERAGE ZONE

Beneficiary cost-sharing (up to) 25%

Plan pays 65%

Manufacturer Discount 10%

**Out of Pocket Threshold (Max)
\$2000**

CATASTROPHIC COVERAGE

(begins after beneficiary has spent \$2,000)

Plan pays 60%, Manufacturer Discount 20%

Reinsurance 20% (Medicare pays)

Beneficiary pays \$0

Treatment Categories

- ▶ Medicare requires all Part D plans cover at least two medication in every medical 'class' of medications
 - May offer more than one
- ▶ Other 'classes' that are covered
 - Antidepressants
 - Antipsychotic
 - Anticonvulsants
 - Antiretroviral
 - Immunosuppressant
 - Antineoplastics



Part D: What's Covered?

- ▶ Available only by prescription
 - Approved by US FDA
 - Used for an approved medical reason*
- ▶ Drugs, biological's, insulin
- ▶ Medical supplies for injecting insulin
 - Syringes, needles, alcohol swabs, gauze
- ▶ Brand-name and generic drugs on plan's formulary

Non-Covered Drugs

- ▶ Drugs covered under Medicare Part A or B
- ▶ Over the Counter (OTC)
- ▶ Drugs to treat:
 - anorexia
 - fertility
 - for cosmetic purposes only
- ▶ RX to relieve cough and cold symptoms
 - Ex. Guaifenesin (Robitussin), Musinex
- ▶ Vitamins & minerals (supplements)
 - Except: prenatal drugs, fluoride, some vitamins to treat disease

LIS/Extra HELP

- ▶ Applied for and provided through Social Security Administration
- ▶ Several levels to help
 - Based on income and assets
- ❖ Visit www.ssa.gov or
- ❖ call Social Security Administration at (800) 772-1213
- ❖ Visit or call your local SHIP office

“Extra Help” Guidelines (2024)

▶ Maximum Monthly Income limits*

Income counted is before any deductions

*Max. income for Extra Help

- Single \$1,903 Couple \$2,575

▶ Maximum Total Asset Limits*

- Single \$17,220 Couple \$34,360

- Does **not** include home, primary vehicle, personal possessions
- Does count checking, savings, CD's, IRA's, stocks, bonds, etc...

**Income/assets includes \$20 income disregards/\$1500 per person burial disregards

“Extra Help” Guidelines (2024)

- ▶ With lowest income and resources (SSI/Medicaid/MSP)
 - Pay no premiums or deductibles
 - Have no or small copayments
 - 2024 copays: \$1.55 generic Rx - \$4.60 brand name Rx or \$0 for both
- ▶ Everyone else with income and resources within limits
 - Pay no premiums or deductibles
 - Have small copays
 - 2024 copays: \$4.50 generic Rx and \$11.20 brand name Rx

Patient Assistance Program (PAP)

- ▶ Income/Asset limits higher than LIS/MSP
- ▶ Application based on Tax Return
- ▶ May only help in “Donut Hole” period
- ▶ Lower or no co-pays
- ▶ Find companies at
 - www.medicare.gov
 - www.benefitscheckup.org
 - www.rxassist.org
 - www.needymeds.org
 - www.pparx.org

Medicare Resources

- ▶ Medicare publications
 - *Medicare and You 2025* handbook
- ▶ www.medicare.gov
- ▶ 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
 - TTY/TDD 1-877-486-2048

****Your local SHIP office to meet one-on-one with a certified and experienced counselor****

SHIP Pre-recorded Medicare presentations:

- ▶ Look for previously recorded Medicare 101 4-part series on our website: www.ppacg.org/aging Coming Soon!

Do You Want to Make a Difference in Your Community?

Your local SHIP/SMP program is always looking for people who:

- *Love a challenge!
- *Love to Learn!
- *Want to Help Others!

***Know You Have Truly Made a Difference!**

Become a highly trained SHIP/SMP counselor, program support assistant, outreach specialist or other needed volunteer!

*All training and support provided by your local SHIP office.

Go to: www.shiptacenter.org/volunteer to see testimonials or call Senior Insurance Assistance in Colorado Springs:

(719) 635-4891 or (719) 471-2096



Contact Info:

PPACG Area Agency on Aging
Senior Insurance Assistance, your local SHIP program

We staff a total of 5 full time counselors and 1 part-time volunteer, all fully trained and certified by Medicare and the state of Colorado, to assist you.

(719) 635-4891- in El Paso, Park, Teller, Fremont, Custer, Lake,
(M -F, 9a - 4p) Huerfano, Las Animas and Chaffee counties

(888) 696-7213 - toll free, state-wide-will route you to the SHIP office closest to you

Roma Costanza, Medicare Specialist/SHIP Coordinator
seniorinsur@ppacg.org

For more information about the SHIP program and volunteer opportunities, please visit
www.shiptacenter.org

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Questions?

