

# NAVIGATING THE MAZE OF MEDICARE

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*Improving the lives of 40 million older adults by 2030*

# Medicare Basics

- Know the Medicare alphabet
- Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage
- Medicare enrollment
- Medicare benefit changes
- Medicare plan finder demo

# Medicare Basics

- Part A: Inpatient/hospital insurance
    - Usually premium-free with work credits
  - Part B: Outpatient care
    - \$148.50/month premiums in 2021
  - Part C: Private Medicare Advantage plans (Get Parts A + B + extras, often prescriptions)
    - May have premiums in addition to Part B
  - Part D: Prescription drug plan
    - Costs vary (premiums + drug co-pays, deductible)
  - Medigap: Supplemental insurance
    - Monthly premium, pays costs not covered in A & B
- 
- Original  
Medicare

# Medicare Enrollment Options

## Start with Basic Coverage

### PART A



Covers hospital services

AND

### PART B



Covers doctor's office visits and emergency care

Original Medicare

## Enhance Your Coverage with optional plans

### PART D



Covers prescription drugs

AND/OR

### MEDIGAP



Covers some costs not covered by Parts A & B

### PART C



- Covers hospital services and doctor's office visits
- Could cover prescription drugs
- Could include additional benefits, such as dental, vision and hearing

Original Medicare + drug and/or supplement

Medicare Advantage

# Considerations

## Original Medicare

- Any provider who accepts Medicare
- Purchase a Medigap to cover Part A & B costs
- Purchase Part D plan for prescriptions

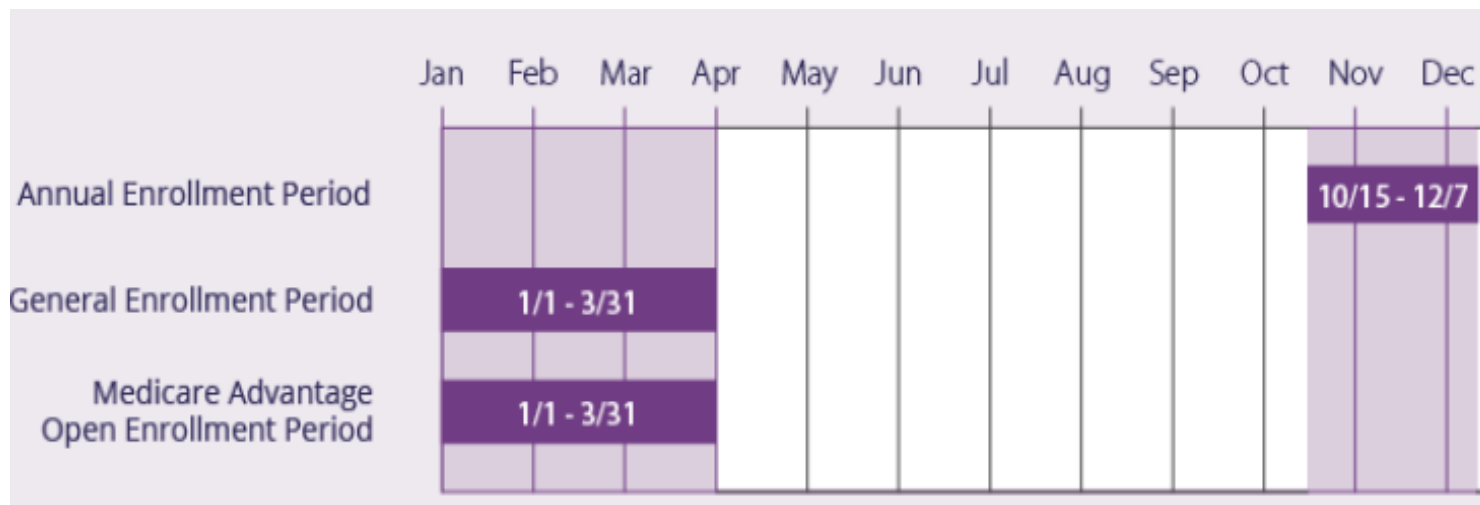
## Medicare Advantage

- Network providers
- Plan copays with limit on out-of-pocket costs
- Often includes prescription benefits
- Supplemental benefits
- Limitations to later leave & enroll in Medigap

# Medicare Enrollment (IEP)

- 7-month window around 65<sup>th</sup> birthday
  - People who are working can delay if they have insurance through employer/spouse (20+ employees); Special Enrollment Period applies
- OR automatically enrolled in 25<sup>th</sup> month receiving Social Security Disability
- People receiving Social Security retirement benefits at 65<sup>th</sup> birthday will be automatically enrolled in Medicare A & B
  - All others must actively sign up on [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

# Medicare Enrollment Periods



- Annual Enrollment Period for Medicare Advantage & Part D: 10/15-12/7; coverage starts 1/1
- General Enrollment Period for Medicare Part A & B: 1/1 -3/31; coverage starts 7/1
- MA Open Enrollment Period: 1/1 – 3/31; coverage starts beginning of next month after enrollment change
- No annual enrollment period for Medigap plan
  - Medigap Open Enrollment: Right to buy Medigap for 6 months beginning month beneficiary is both 65+ and enrolled in Part B
  - Guaranteed issue right: Right to buy Medigap within 63 days of losing certain types of coverage, if beneficiary is 65

# Late Enrollment Penalty: Part B

- Part B premium may go up 10% for every 12-month period someone could have enrolled in Part B but didn't
  - Not applicable for those who delay because they have employer health care
  - This penalty lasts a lifetime/as long as person has Part B!
- May have to wait until annual General Enrollment Period (Jan – March), with coverage beginning July 1



# Late Enrollment Penalty: Part D

- Added to Part D premium
- Applied when someone goes without creditable/Medicare drug coverage for more than 63 days after their Initial Medicare Enrollment Period
- Calculated by multiplying 1% of the "national base beneficiary premium" (\$33.06 in 2021) times the number of full, uncovered months the person didn't have Part D/creditable coverage
  - Applied as long as a person has a Medicare drug plan

# Don't Procrastinate on Enrollment!

- For un-bias Medicare counseling contact a local SHIP counselor [shiptacenter.org/](http://shiptacenter.org/)



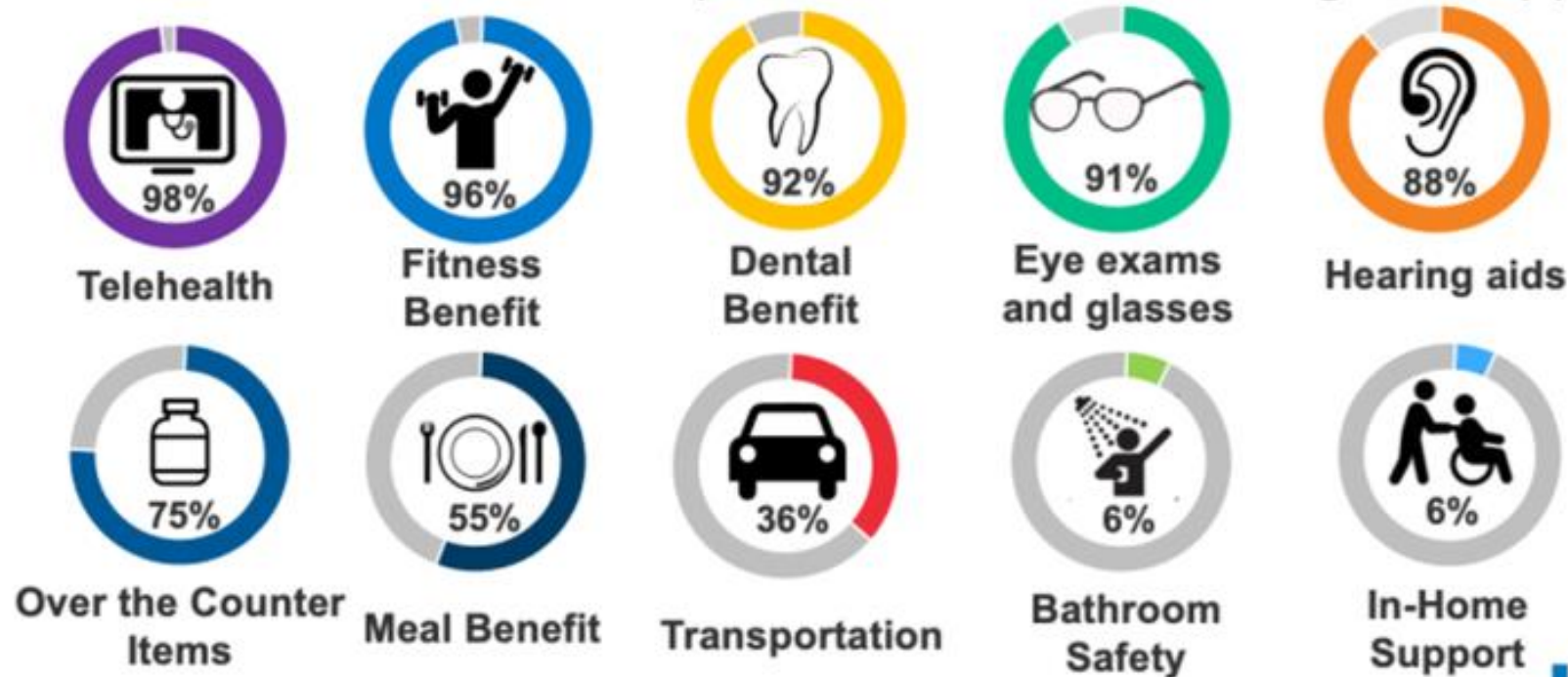


# Medicare Benefit Changes

# Medicare Advantage: Supplemental Benefits

Figure 7

Most Medicare Advantage plans provide fitness and dental benefits but much fewer provide in-home or caregiver support



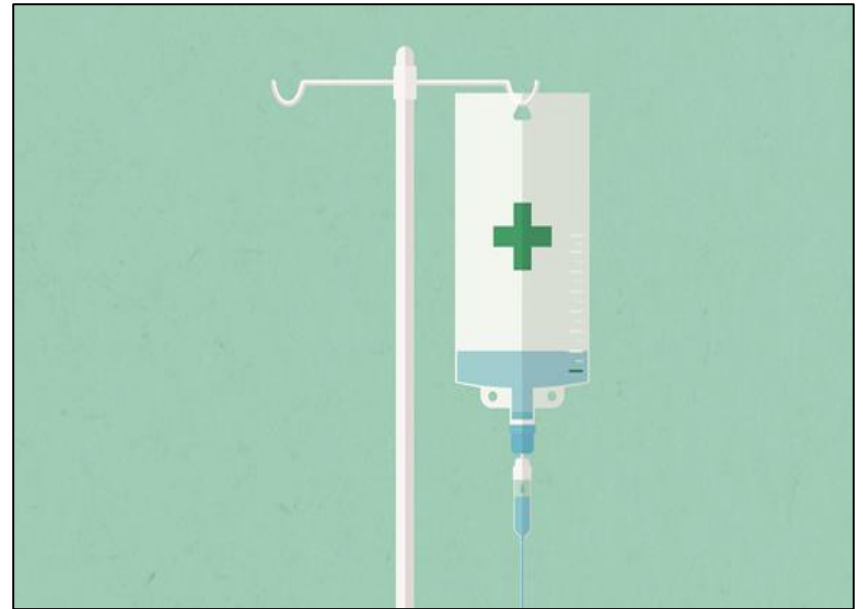
NOTE: Dental includes plans that only provide preventive benefits, such as cleanings. Excludes SNPs, EGHPs, HCPPs, and PACE plans.

SOURCE: KFF analysis of CMS's Landscape and Benefit files for 2021.



# Medicare Advantage: Step Therapy for Part B drugs

- MA plans may apply step therapy for physician administered Part B drugs
  - ✓ 365 day look back period determine new starts
  - ✓ Plans may cross manage Part B and Part D drugs
- Exception request and appeals denial process available
  - ✓ Usually within 24-72 hours



# Medicare Part D: Indication based formulary design

- Formulary management tool that allows Plans to include drugs on their formularies on an indication-by-indication basis and cover only specific indications of a drug.
- Plans must ensure a therapeutically similar drug is on the formulary for a non-covered indication
- Request for coverage for non-covered indication will be treated as an exception request for non-covered drug. Plans must reply with 24 -72 hours



# Example

- Afinitor is FDA approved for both renal cell carcinoma and breast cancer. Indication based formularies allow
  - ✔ Coverage for breast cancer diagnosis
  - ✘ Off formulary for renal cell carcinoma diagnosis
- Plan must ensure there is another drug covered for renal cell carcinoma, such as Sutent or Nexavar.

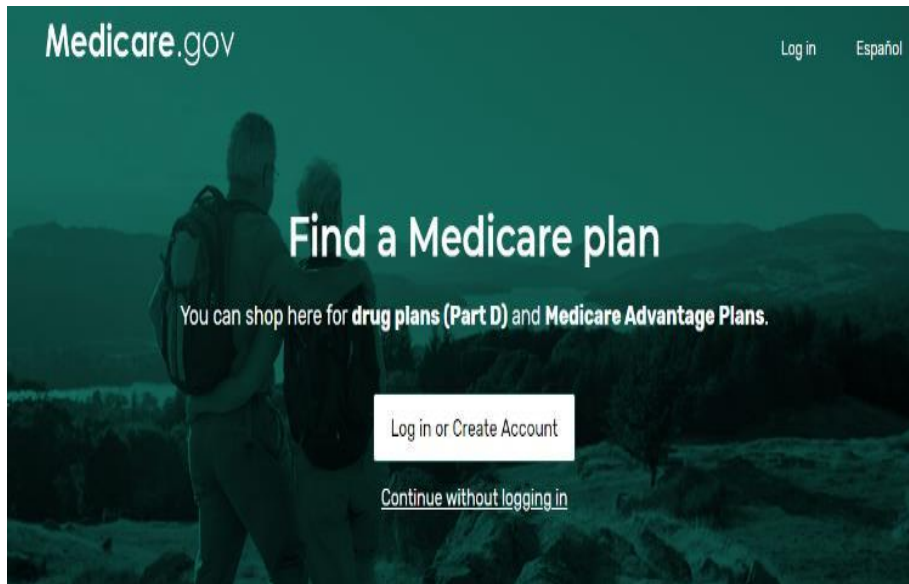
# Medicare Part D

- Part D benefit: phases, costs and coverage



# Medicare Plan Finder

[www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan](http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan)



- Tool to compare & enroll Medicare Advantage & Part D plans.
- Available to professionals and beneficiaries
- Identifies cost and coverage basics
- Contact plan for details

# Create a My Medicare account

## Features accessible with a My Medicare account

- Access to your health information, including beneficiary medication list
- See beneficiary-specific information i.e., Extra Help subsidy level, current plan enrollment
- Save drug lists

## Without a My Medicare account

- Unable to access beneficiary specific information
- Unable to save drug lists

# Creating a My Medicare account



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubkMZBNr8-I>

# Plan finder: Things to remember

- Plans change every year
- Include drugs taken regularly (not antibiotics)
- Be sure dosage and frequency are accurate (especially for insulin, cremes, inhalers)
- Not for Part B drugs (those administered in a physician office)
- Preferred retail or mail order pharmacy option

# Medicare plan finder demo

The screenshot displays the Medicare.gov website interface. At the top left is the Medicare.gov logo, and at the top right are links for "Log in" and "Español". The main heading is "Find a 2021 Medicare plan". Below this, a sub-heading states: "You can shop here for **drug plans (Part D)** and **Medicare Advantage Plans**. See your 2021 plan options now by logging in or creating an account." Two buttons are visible: "Log in or Create Account" and "Continue without logging in". Below the main content area, there are three sections: "New to Medicare" with a "Learn more about your options" button, "Special Enrollment Period?" with a "Log in or Create Account" button, and a large central "DEMO" watermark.

Medicare.gov

Log in Español

## Find a 2021 Medicare plan

You can shop here for **drug plans (Part D)** and **Medicare Advantage Plans**.  
See your 2021 plan options now by logging in or creating an account.

Log in or Create Account

[Continue without logging in](#)

New to Medicare  
Learn more about your options

Special Enrollment Period?  
Log in or Create Account

count to change your 2020 coverage.

Learn more about your options

Log in or Create Account

**DEMO**

# Information Needed to Choose a Plan are Found on the Plan Detail Page

- Premium and deductible (if applicable) total out of pocket cost
- On formulary (covered) / Off formulary (not covered)
- Drug restrictions:
  - ✓ Step therapy
  - ✓ Prior authorization
  - ✓ Quantity limits
- Drug tiering



# Choosing a Medicare Advantage Plan

- No two plans are alike
- Find out plan's rules before enrolling
  - Provider network and access to out of network providers
  - Prior authorization requirements
  - Prescription drug coverage
- Consider
  - Extra benefit (transportation, air filtration systems, dental)
  - Eligibility for extra benefits

# Key Resources

- MPF walk through video: <https://youtu.be/QgXmY8-gEHk>
- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)
  - 1-877-839-2675 or visit <https://www.shiptacenter.org/>
- BenefitsCheckUp: [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)
  - Free, confidential screening tool from NCOA



# Contact Information

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