What Are My Medicare Options?

Original Medicare
Part A - Hospital | Part B - Medical
Fee-for-service coverage under which the government pays your health care providers directly for your Part A and/or Part B benefits.

Medicare Advantage Plans
(HMOs and PPOs)
Part C
Offered by private companies that contract with Medicare to provide Part A and Part B benefits.
Plan types include health maintenance organizations (HMOs), preferred provider organizations (PPOs), private fee-for-service plans and more.
These plans take the place of Original Medicare and most include the Part D prescription drug benefit.

Medicare Supplement
(Secondary) Insurance
Sold by private insurance companies to fill “gaps” in Original Medicare coverage. Others may have coverage through a retirement health plan or Medicaid.

Medicare Part D
Prescription Drug Coverage
Part D
Private companies approved by Medicare run these plans. Plans have different costs and cover different drugs.

How Do I Compare Part D Plans?
Ohio Department of Insurance: 800-686-1578
Medicare: 1-800-MEDICARE

Important Dates:
October: Announcement of Part C and Part D plans for the upcoming year. Visit www.medicare.gov to compare plans
December: Medicare open enrollment begins October 15
January: Medicare open enrollment ends December 7
New plans and plan changes take effect January 1

The Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) is a division of the Ohio Department of Insurance that provides free information and education to people covered by Medicare and their caregivers.

Get Extra Help With
Prescription Drug Costs 2023 - 2024
THE ‘EXTRA HELP’ PROGRAM

This publication was supported by the Ohio Department of Insurance with financial assistance, in whole or in part, through a grant from the Administration for Community Living.

February 2023
Part D is Medicare’s comprehensive prescription drug coverage benefit and is available to anyone eligible for Medicare Part A or Part B. People with Medicare may enroll in Part D coverage through either a stand-alone plan or a Medicare Advantage plan. People on Medicare who choose not to enroll and have no other drug coverage may pay more for late enrollment.

What is Medicare Part D?

Part D is Medicare’s comprehensive prescription drug coverage benefit and is available to anyone eligible for Medicare Part A or Part B. People with Medicare may enroll in Part D coverage through either a stand-alone plan or a Medicare Advantage plan. People on Medicare who choose not to enroll and have no other drug coverage may pay more for late enrollment.

What is the ‘Extra Help’ Program?

Extra Help is a Medicare program that helps people with limited income and resources pay Medicare prescription drug costs. You may qualify for Extra Help, also called low-income subsidy (LIS), if your annual income and total resources are below these limits this year:

**Single Person**
- Monthly Income: $1,843
- Resources: $16,660

**Married Person**
- Monthly Income: $2,485
- Resources: $33,240

For help applying for Extra Help benefits, contact the Ohio Department of Insurance at 800-686-1578.

What Counts as Income and Resources?

Resources include money in a checking or savings account, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Resources don’t include your home, car, household items, burial plot, burial expenses (up to $1,500 per person), or life insurance policies. Income includes any money received from social security, pensions, employment, interest and more.

If you qualify for Extra Help, Medicare will pay:
- All or most of the monthly premium
- All or most of the annual deductible
- Most of your copayments/coinsurance
- Full coverage during the donut hole

In 2023, drug costs for most people who qualify will be no more than $4.15 for each generic drug and $10.35 for each brand name drug. Look on the Extra Help letters you get, or contact your plan to find out your exact costs.

What Does Part D Cost?

Each Medicare drug plan has its own formulary. Many plans place drugs into different “tiers” on their formularies. Drugs in each tier have a different cost; drugs in a lower tier will generally cost you less than those in a higher tier.

**Monthly Premiums:** $5.10 - $109.00
**Annual Deductible:** $0 - $505
**Copays or Coinsurance:** 25% or flat amount until $11,206.28 in total costs
**Catastrophic Coverage:** 5% coinsurance

How Do I Choose a Part D Plan?

Each year you should review your plan options and look for three things:
- **Convenience** - Know what pharmacies are in network and if the plan has preferred pharmacies
- **Cost** - Know all possible out-of-pocket expenses
- **Coverage** - Make sure all your current prescription medications are included

For help comparing prescription drug plans and to learn about other programs that may help you pay drug costs, call OSHIIP:

800-686-1578

NOTE: All people with Medicare should review their drug options EVERY year and choose the plan that’s best for them!