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.

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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.

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Prescription Drug Coverage

Part D

Private companies approved by Medicare run these plans. All plans have different costs and cover different drugs.

OR

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.

How Do I Compare Part D Plans?

Ohio Department of Insurance: 800-686-1578

Medicare: 800-MEDICARE

Important Dates:

October	Announcement of Part C and Part D plans for the upcoming year. Visit medicare.gov to compare plans
	Medicare open enrollment begins October 15
December	Medicare open enrollment ends December 7
January	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.

Ohio Department of Insurance
Senior Health Insurance Information Program

50 West Town Street
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800-686-1578
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SHIP
State Health Insurance Assistance Program

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Medicare Part D
The ‘Extra Help’ Program

Ohio Department of Insurance
Senior Health Insurance Information Program

Medicare Part D

Prescription Drug Costs 2026 - 2027

THE ‘EXTRA HELP’ PROGRAM

Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP)

800-686-1578

insurance.ohio.gov/oshiip

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 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: $0 - $123.40

Annual Deductible: $0 - $615

Copays or Coinsurance: 25% or flat amount - depends on plan

Maximum out-of-pocket: - $2,100 for covered drugs

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

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:	$2,015
Resources:	$18,090

Married Person	
Monthly Income:	$2,725
Resources:	$36,100

For help applying for Extra Help benefits, contact the 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 of your annual deductible
- Most of your copayments/coinsurance
- Full coverage during the donut hole

In 2026, drug costs for most people who qualify will be no more than $5.10 for each generic drug and $12.65 for each brand name drug. Look on the Extra Help letters you get, or contact your plan to find out your exact costs.

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