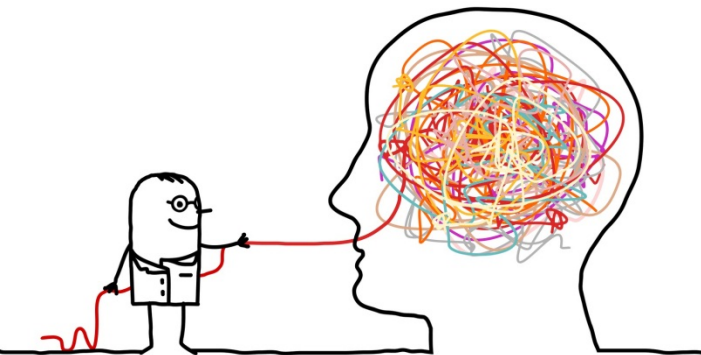




Medicare Unraveled: What New Beneficiaries Need to Know

2019



Medicare's Many Questions

- What is SHINE?
- What is Medicare?
- When can I enroll? What if I miss enrollment?
- What does Medicare cover and what does it cost?
- How can I fill in the gaps of Medicare?
- How does Medicare work with MassHealth or the Connector?
- Can I get help paying for Medicare and prescription drugs?

SHINE

- Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone on Medicare
- Funded by A.C.L. and administered by Executive Office of Elder Affairs in partnership with local organizations
- 13 regional offices and one statewide program (Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center)
- 600+ highly trained, certified counselors in almost every city and town in Massachusetts
- Schedule a phone or in-person appointment with a SHINE counselor by calling 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636, press 3. Press 5 from cell phone)

What Does SHINE Do?

- Provides free, unbiased health insurance information and counseling to Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers.
- Assists clients in transition from other insurance to Medicare.
- Answers questions regarding Medicare eligibility, enrollment periods, and benefits.
- Assists with Medicare billing issues and appeals
- Screens for eligibility for programs that can help pay for Medicare and health care.

What is Medicare?

- Federal health care coverage created in 1965 to help elders and people with disabilities pay for their health care, subject to premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and/or co-pays.
- Four “parts” of Medicare
 - Part A—inpatient services- hospital, SNF
 - Part B—outpatient services- doctors, tests, etc.
 - Part C—combines all services into a single plan (Medicare Advantage- HMO, PPO, Special Needs)
 - Part D—outpatient prescription drug coverage

What is Medicare?

- Eligibility determinations and enrollments are performed by Social Security Administration (SSA)
 - 1-800-772-1213; www.ssa.gov
- Benefits are administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
 - 1-800-633-4227; www.medicare.gov
- Can receive Medicare under Original Medicare (Parts A & B) or Medicare Advantage (Part C)

Medicare Eligibility

- Individuals aged 65 years or older who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents for at least 5 continuous years
 - If 40 work credits through payroll tax, entitled to premium-free Part A (may qualify through spouse)
- Individuals under 65 who have received Social Security Disability (SSDI) for 24 months
- Individuals under 65 with ESRD or ALS
- If have MassHealth or Connector, turn 65 and eligible, may need to enroll

When Can I Enroll?

- Medicare has specific enrollment periods
 - Initial Enrollment Period
 - General Enrollment Period
 - Open Enrollment Period
- To enroll outside of these 3 periods, you must qualify for a Special Enrollment Period
- If you do not enroll during Initial Enrollment Period, you may be subject to late enrollment penalties (with some exceptions)

Enrollment Periods

	Time period	Parts one can enroll in
Initial Enrollment Period	7 months around 65 th birthday or 25 th month of SSDI (begins first day of the 3rd month before and ends last day of the 3rd month after)	A, B, C, D
General Enrollment Period	January 1 – March 31	A, B
Open Enrollment Period	October 15 – December 7	C, D

Part A Helps to Cover...

- Inpatient hospital care*
- Skilled nursing facility care
- Home health care
- Hospice care

Premium free if you or spouse worked and earned 40 credits. Can purchase but expensive

*Part B pays if you are “under observation”

Part B Helps to Cover...

- Physician services
- Diagnostic tests, labs, and x-rays
- Preventive Benefits
- Physical and occupational therapy
- Durable medical equipment
- Prosthetic and orthotic devices
- Ambulance services

Monthly premium, varies by income

Delaying Part B

- If enrolling late, Part B late enrollment penalty is a surcharge added to monthly Part B premium for life
- Penalty is 10% of the current Part B premium (\$135.50) for every 12 months the person was eligible but did not enroll in Part B for life
- Late enrollees must wait until General Enrollment Period (January 1 – March 31) to enroll in Part B for coverage effective July 1st

Part D

- Outpatient prescription drug coverage
- Must be enrolled in Part A and/or B
- Provided by approved standalone Prescription Drug Plans (PDP) or Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans (MAPD)
- Many plans to choose from that vary in cost, tier, pharmacy deductible and coverage
- May delay but monthly lifetime penalty of 1% for each month without coverage

Delaying Part D

- Part D can be delayed without penalty if have other “creditable” drug coverage (obtain letter from employer and save it)
- “Creditable” means at least as good as Part D
- May include employee coverage, Connector, retiree coverage, Veterans Administration Health Care
- If delayed enrollment with creditable coverage, have 2 month Special Enrollment Period from loss of coverage to enroll in Part D

Choosing a Part D Plan

- Plans vary in
 - Cost
 - Covered drugs (i.e., formulary)
 - Restrictions
 - Pharmacy networks
- Choosing the best plan is a matter of finding the one that covers the combination of drugs at the lowest cost, and is accepted by pharmacy
- For help, use the Medicare Plan Finder (<https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan>) or talk with a SHINE counselor

MH member Signing Up for Medicare

- If collecting SS benefits, will be auto-enrolled
- Eligibility for under 65 and over 65 differs, ex. asset limit over 65
- If still eligible for MassHealth, MH becomes secondary and will pay for Medicare premiums, co-pays and deductibles
- Deemed eligible for Extra Help (LIS) to pay Medicare Part D. Must choose a plan or will be assigned a premium free plan within 60 days (can change plans)
- May be eligible for One Care (<65) or SCO (65+)

Connector Member Signing Up Medicare

- SSA informs Connector when member eligible
- Letter sent to member encouraging contact SSA to enroll in Medicare
- Must enroll if eligible for premium free Medicare A (= min. essential coverage). Cannot be on Connector. Should also enroll in B and D
- If have to pay Medicare A premium, may keep Connector

Equitable Relief

- Connector Members who did not sign up for Medicare when turned 65 but kept Connector plan may contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make appointment to apply for immediate or retroactive enrollment and waiver of penalty
- Program open through September 2019
- Must provide Connector enrollment documentation

Ways to Fill Gaps in Medicare A & B Coverage

- Medigap policies
- Medicare Advantage plans
- Retiree coverage
- Veterans' or military coverage
- MassHealth – always payer of last resort

For assistance, contact SHINE 1-800-243-4636,
press 3. Press 5 from cell phone.

Programs that Can Help Pay Medicare and/or Drug Costs

- MassHealth (Medicaid)
- Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)
- Extra Help (LIS)
- Prescription Advantage

SHINE Counselors can help screen for these and other programs

Call 1-800-243-4636, press 3. Press 5 from cell phone

Prescription Advantage

- Prescription Advantage is a state-sponsored pharmacy assistance plan
- Prescription Advantage is administered by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs

Prescription Advantage is available to:

- Massachusetts residents who are **not** MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth members and who are:
 - Age 65 or older
 - Under age 65 with a qualified disability

Members Under Age 65

- Work no more than 40 hours per month
- Income cannot exceed 188% FPL:
Single: \$23,481 Married: \$31,791
- Must meet disability guidelines

Member does not have Medicare	Member has Medicare
Prescription Advantage provides primary benefits	Prescription Advantage provides secondary benefits

Members Age 65+ and Eligible for Medicare

Prescription Advantage is a **secondary** payer.

Members must:

- Be in a Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage plan

or

- Have Creditable Coverage

Gross annual income cannot exceed 500% FPL:
\$62,450 (single) or \$84,550 (married)

Members Age 65 + and not eligible for Medicare

- Primary prescription drug coverage
- No income or asset limits
- No monthly premium
- Co-payment and deductible amounts based on income
- Out-of-pocket spending is capped annually
- Documentation of immigration status is not required

Member Category	Income Single	Income Married	Out of Pocket Spending Limit	Individual Quarterly Deductible	Retail Co-pays 30-day supply Level 1 – Generic Level 2 – Brand Name Level 3 – Non-Preferred	MAIL Order Co-pays 90-day supply Level 1 – Generic Level 2 – Brand Name Level 3 – Non-Preferred
1	0 - \$16,862	0 - \$22,829	\$820	\$0	Level 1 - \$7 Level 2 - \$18 Level 3 - \$40	Level 1 - \$14 Level 2 - \$36 Level 3 - \$80
2	\$16,863 - \$23,481	\$22,839 - \$31,791	\$1,640	\$0	Level 1 - \$7 Level 2 - \$18 Level 3 - \$40	Level 1 - \$14 Level 2 - \$36 Level 3 - \$80
3	\$23,482 - \$28,103	\$31,792 - \$38,048	\$2,280	\$65	Level 1 - \$12 Level 2 - \$30 Level 3 - \$50	Level 1 - \$24 Level 2 - \$60 Level 3 - \$100
4	\$28,104 - \$37,470	\$38,048 - \$50,730	\$2,730	\$110	Level 1 - \$12 Level 2 - \$30 Level 3 - \$50	Level 1 - \$24 Level 2 - \$60 Level 3 - \$100
5	\$37,471 - \$62,450	\$50,731 - \$84,550	\$3,640	\$220	Level 1 - \$12 Level 2 - \$30 Level 3 - \$50	Level 1 - \$24 Level 2 - \$60 Level 3 - \$100
6	\$62,451 and over	\$84,551 and over	\$6,070	\$350	Level 1 - \$12 Level 2 - \$30 Level 3 - \$50	Level 1 - \$24 Level 2 - \$60 Level 3 - \$100

How Claim Payments Work

- Billing to Medicare and Prescription Advantage takes place at the pharmacy
- No claim forms to complete

Other Benefits of Prescription Advantage

- **Enroll anytime** – year round open enrollment
- **Additional Medicare SEP**

This Special Enrollment Period (SEP) allows members to join or change their Part D or Medicare Advantage Plan one additional time outside of Medicare's Open Enrollment Period!!!!

How to apply

- Applications can be obtained through local SHINE offices, Councils on Aging, Prescription Advantage Customer Service and the Prescription Advantage Web-site www.prescriptionadvantagemma.org

Applications are available in: English, Albanian, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean

- Apply on-line at: www.prescriptionadvantagemma.org
- Apply by phone: 1-800-AGE-INFO (800-243-4636) Press 2
TTY 1-877-610-0241

Prescription Advantage Contact Information

- www.prescriptionadvantagemma.org
- Call 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636) Press 2,
TTY 1-877-610-0241
- Customer Service Representatives are available
Monday-Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM EST.