

### What is Medicare?

- Health insurance for people 65+, or under 65 with disabilities or ESRD (kidney failure).
- Managed by CMS, enrollment via SSA.

### Parts of Medicare:

- Part A (Hospital): Covers inpatient hospital stays, skilled nursing, hospice. Free if you paid Medicare taxes 10+ years.
  - 2025 Premium: \$0 (most people); \$505/month if < 7.5 years worked.
- Part B (Medical): Covers doctor visits, outpatient care, preventive services.
  - 2025 Premium: ~\$185/month (income-adjusted, final TBD).
- Part C (Advantage): Private plans combining A+B, often with drugs. Costs vary by plan.
- Part D (Drugs): Prescription drug coverage. Premiums vary (~\$30-\$50/month avg).

### Enrollment:

- Initial Enrollment: 7-month window (3 months before/after 65th birthday).
- General Enrollment: Jan 1–Mar 31 if you miss initial period (late penalty applies).
- Apply at [ssa.gov/medicare](https://ssa.gov/medicare) or call 1-800-772-1213.

### Costs to Know:

- Part B Deductible: ~\$240/year (2024 figure, 2025 TBD).
- Part A Deductible: ~\$1,632 per benefit period (2024, 2025 TBD).
- Low-income help: Extra Help (drugs) or QMB (premiums) if income < \$1,215/month (individual).

### Key Tips:

- Sign up for Part A/B via SSA, even if working past 65.
- Compare Part C/D plans at [medicare.gov](https://medicare.gov) during Open Enrollment (Oct 15–Dec 7).

### More Info:

- Visit [ssa.gov/medicare](https://ssa.gov/medicare) or [ssaanswers.com/medicare](https://ssaanswers.com/medicare)
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