

Navigating Medicare and Maximizing Benefits: Introduction to Medicare

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State Health Insurance Assistance Program

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Agenda

Today, we'll cover:

- What is Medicare?
- Medicare Coverage and Costs
- When to Enroll
- How to Enroll
- Medicare Financial Assistance Programs
- Medicare and Medicaid
- Partnering with the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)
- Q and A





SHIP

State Health Insurance
Assistance Program

Navigating Medicare



SMP

Senior Medicare Patrol

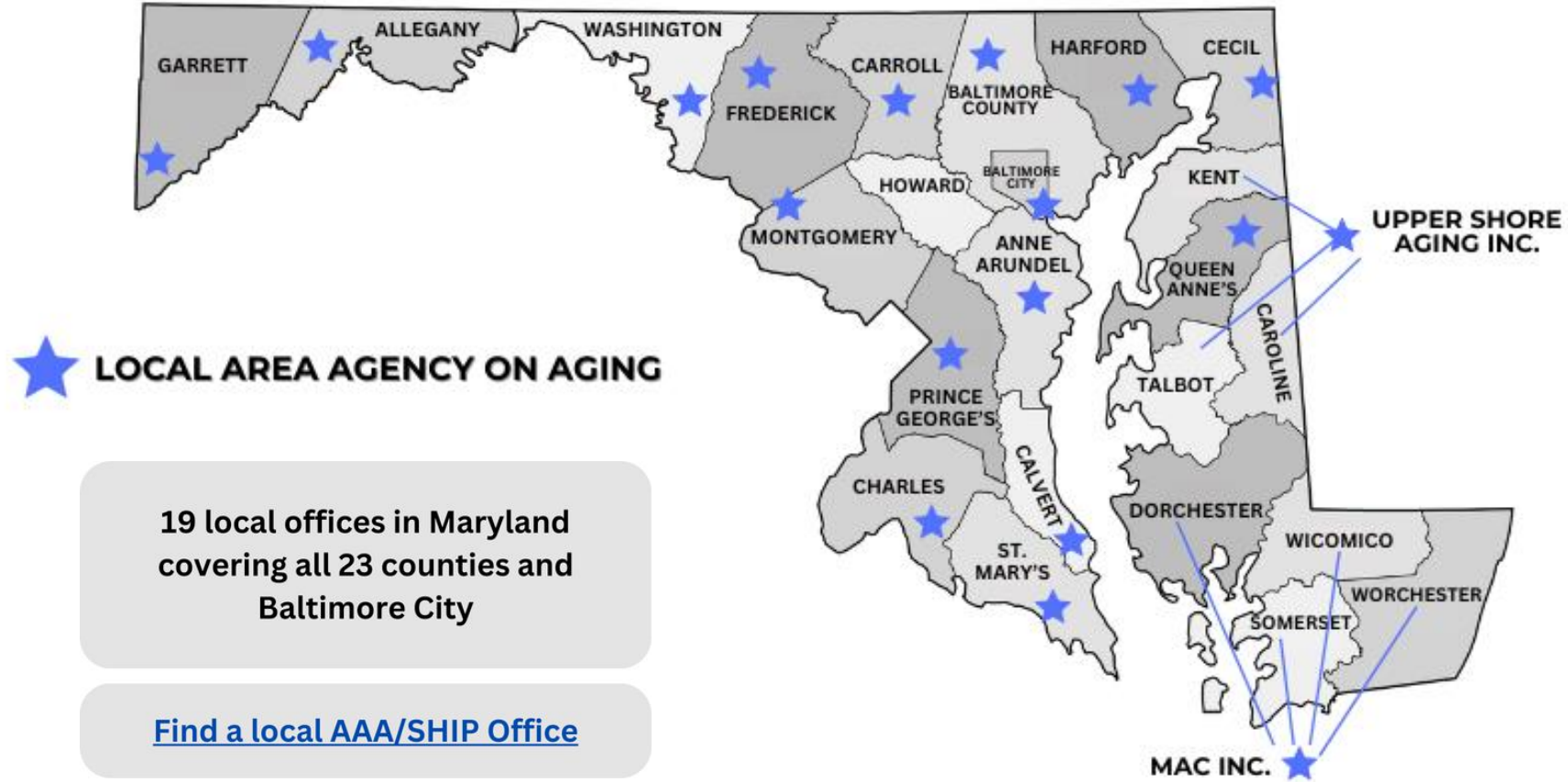
Preventing Medicare Fraud

Need help with Medicare? Call the local SHIP.

SHIP provides free, unbiased, and confidential assistance to people with Medicare, their loved ones, and caregivers. We provide one-on-one counseling and community education and outreach. We are also the local SMP, which helps people with Medicare navigate fraud, errors, and abuse.



Area Agencies on Aging



What is Medicare?

- Federal government program
- Health care coverage for individuals ages 65+ and individuals with certain disabilities
- May still be eligible if not a U.S. citizen but lawfully present

Eligibility

U.S. Citizens or permanent residents at age 65 who worked 40 quarters (approximately 10 years)

OR

Individuals entitled to Social Security Disability (SSDI) for 24 months

OR

Under 65 and have End-Stage Renal Disease or ALS (known as Lou Gehrig's disease)

What are the options for Medicare coverage?

Original Medicare

- Includes Part A and Part B.
- Can join a separate Medicare drug plan to get Medicare drug coverage (Part D).
- Can use any doctor or hospital that takes Medicare, anywhere in the U.S.
- To help with out-of-pocket costs, can also buy supplemental coverage like Medigap, or coverage from a former employer or union, or Medicaid.

Medicare Advantage (Part C)

- Alternative to Original Medicare.
- Medicare-approved plan from a private company.
- “Bundled” plans that include Part A, Part B, and usually Part D.
- In most casts, need to use doctors who are in the plan’s network.
- May have lower out-of-pocket costs than Original Medicare.
- May offer some extra benefits - like vision, hearing, and dental services.



What does Medicare cover?

Part A

Hospital Insurance

- Inpatient care in hospitals
- Skilled nursing facility care
- Hospice care
- Home health care

Part B

Medical Insurance

- Services from doctors and other health care providers
- Outpatient care
- Home health care
- Durable medical equipment
- Preventive services

Part C

Medicare Advantage

- Includes everything covered under Original Medicare
- May include additional coverage like for prescription drugs, dental, vision, and hearing care

Part D

Drug Coverage

- Prescription drugs (including many recommended shots or vaccines)
- Either through a standalone private plan or a Medicare Advantage plan with drug coverage

Medigap

Medicare Supplement

- Extra insurance you can buy from a private company
- Helps pay share of costs in Original Medicare, like copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles

Original Medicare



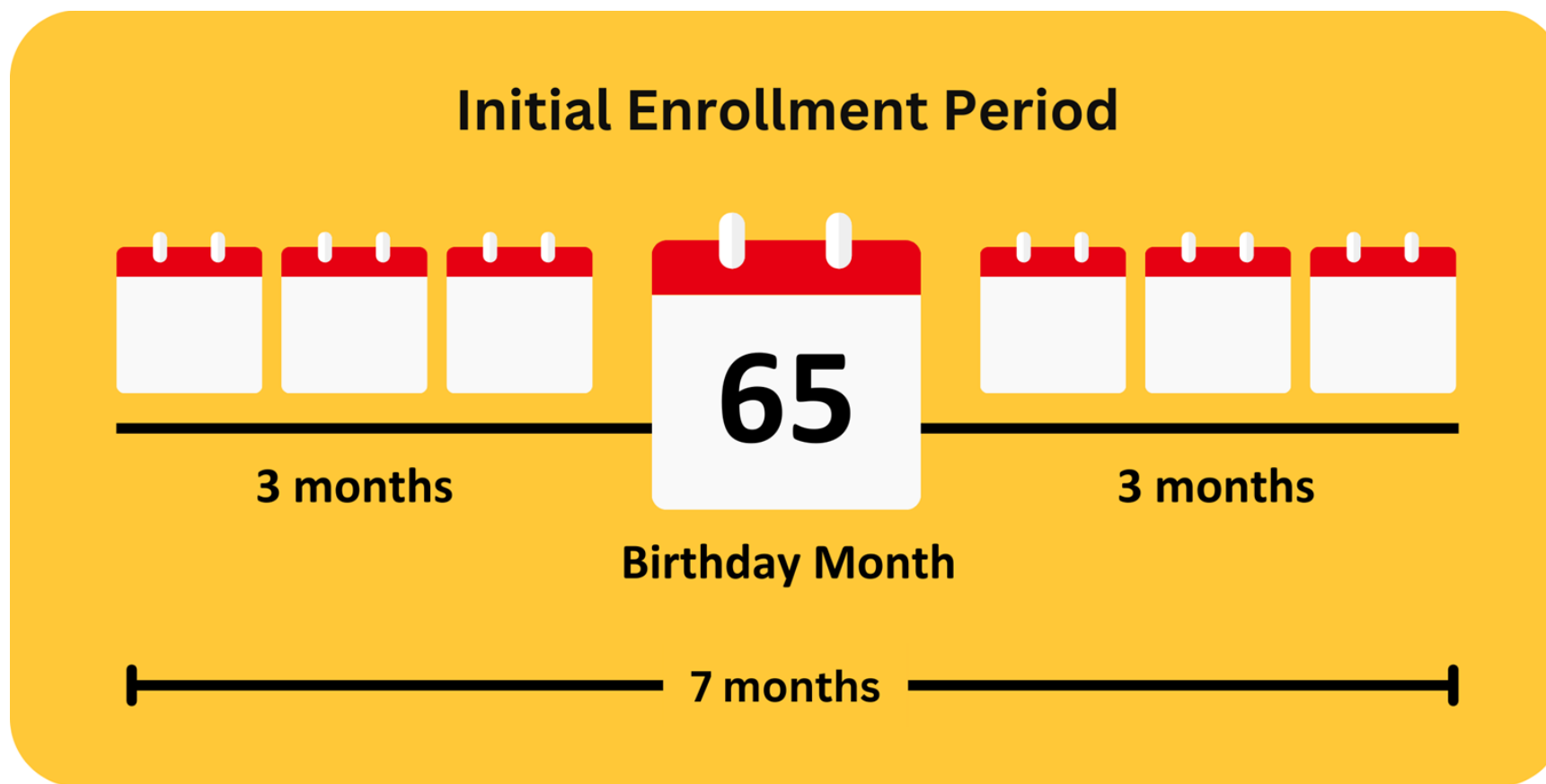
Cost of Medicare in 2024

Costs	Part A Hospital Insurance	Part B Medical Insurance	Part C Medicare Advantage	Part D Drug Coverage
Premium	\$0 for most people	\$174.70*	Varies by plan Out of pocket limit varies by plan	Varies by plan*
Deductible	\$1,632 for each inpatient benefit period	\$240 yearly		Maximum is \$545. Varies by plan and pharmacy
Coinsurance	Varies by type of inpatient stay	Usually 20%		Varies by plan and pharmacy.

*Some beneficiaries may pay an extra amount on their Part B or Part D premiums if their income is above a certain level. This is called the Income Related Adjustment Amount (IRMAA).



When to enroll?



When to enroll?

	Initial Enrollment Period	General Enrollment Period	Annual Open Enrollment Period	Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period	Special Enrollment Period
Who?	Those first eligible for Medicare (new to Medicare)	Those who miss the initial enrollment period	Medicare enrollees	Part C enrollees	Those with a qualifying event
What?	A seven-month period to enroll in Parts A, B, C and D	Enroll in Parts A and B (Original Medicare)	Make changes to Medicare coverage	Switch Medicare Advantage plans or switch to Original Medicare	Enroll in Part(s) A, B, C, and D without a penalty
When?	3 months before 65th birthday month to 3 months after	Jan. 1 to Mar. 31 with coverage starting month after enrollment	Oct. 15 – Dec. 7 with coverage starting Jan. 1 of the next year	Jan. 1 to Mar. 31 with coverage starting the next month	Up to 8 months after the event for Parts A & B, up to 60 days after for Parts C & D



Late Enrollment Penalties (LEP)

- **It is important** to sign up for Medicare during the Initial Enrollment Period unless you have other coverage similar to Medicare; otherwise, there could be an LEP.
- Added to monthly premium
- Not a one-time late fee
- Increase with time

Part A

Penalty: 10%
Duration: twice the number of years you didn't sign up

Part B

Penalty: 10% for each year you didn't sign up but could
Duration: lifetime

Part D

Penalty: 1% for each month you didn't join but could have OR go 63 days or more without creditable drug coverage
Duration: lifetime



Special Enrollment Periods: Part A and Part B

- After the Initial Enrollment Period, there are certain situations when you can sign up without paying a late enrollment penalty
- Only available for a limited period
- If you don't sign up during your SEP, you'll have to wait for the next General Enrollment Period, and you might have an LEP
- Requires an additional form

Qualifying Events

- Had health insurance through a job
- Lost Medicaid coverage
- National disaster or declared emergency
- Inaccurate or misleading information
- Released from incarceration
- Exceptional circumstances
- Volunteer and serve in another country
- Have TRICARE

Special Enrollment Periods: Part C and Part D

- You can make changes to your Medicare Advantage and Medicare drug coverage when certain events happen in your life
- There are many different SEPs, so it is worth checking.

Qualifying Events

- Move to a new location
- Lose current coverage
- Have a chance to get other coverage
- Plan changes contract with Medicare
- Many others

How to enroll?

- Contact the Social Security Administration to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B:
 - [Applying for Medicare Part A and Part B at the same time](#)
 - [Applying for Medicare Part B using the Part B Special Enrollment Period \(SEP\)](#)
- Some will be automatically enrolled; others must actively sign up:
 - Automatically enrolled in Original Medicare at 65 if already receiving Social Security or Railroad Retirement Board benefits
- Must enroll during Initial Enrollment Period, otherwise during the General Enrollment Period or a Special Enrollment Period



Plan Comparison: Part C and Part D

- <https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare/>
- Things to consider:
 - Costs
 - Premiums: monthly payment
 - Deductibles: amount to pay before insurance kicks in
 - Coinsurance: a percentage of the costs the beneficiary pays after the deductible
 - Out-of-Pocket Maximum: an annual cap on the amount the beneficiary pays
 - Network and Providers
 - In-network vs. out-of-network
 - Consider for both providers and pharmacies
 - Network adequacy: number and type of providers offered and distance to access them
 - STAR rating
 - 1-5 rating system based on member satisfaction, quality of care, and customer service
 - Extra Benefits



Medicare Financial Programs

SHIP can provide free screening and application assistance



Medicare Savings Program

Programs	Monthly Income Limit	Asset Limit	Helps pay for
Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) Program	Individual: \$1,275 Couple: \$1,724	Individual: \$9,430 Couple: \$14,130	Part A premiums; Part B premiums, deductibles, coinsurance and copayments
Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) Program	Individual: \$1,526 Couple: \$2,064	Individual: \$9,430 Couple: \$14,130	Part B premiums (you must have both Part A and Part B to qualify)
Qualifying Individual (QI) Program also known as SLMB II	Individual: \$1,715 Couple: \$2,320	Individual: \$9,430 Couple: \$14,130	Part B premiums (you must have both Part A and Part B to qualify)
Qualifying Disabled & Working Individual (QDWI) Program	Individual: \$5,105 Couple: \$6,899	Individual: \$4,000 Couple: \$6,000	Part A premiums only



Medicare Savings Program

- Additional benefits:
 - Also eliminates Part A and Part B late enrollment penalties
 - Automatic enrollment in Extra Help/LIS
- Must have Medicare
- Yearly redetermination
- To apply:
 - Apply in-person or by mailing an application to the [local Department of Human Services](#).
 - Visit the [Department of Human Services to download the current application form](#)



Section 3. Assets

Type of Assets	Current Value (as of the 1 st day of this month)	Owner:		Account Number	Name of bank, institution, or location
		Applicant	Spouse		
Savings	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Checking	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Stock Certificates	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Certificates of Deposit (CD's) or Money Market					
Bonds	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Real Estate (except where you live)	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Trust Fund	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
IRA, Keogh, 401-K,	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Cash	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other:	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Section 4. Income

	Amount (before taxes and other deductions)	How Often? (monthly, weekly, bi-weekly)?	Received by:	
			Applicant	Spouse
Social Security	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Security Disability	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterans' Benefits	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Railroad Retirement	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil Service Annuity	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pension, Retirement, or Disability Income	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rental Income	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mortgage Income	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dividends or Interest Earnings	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Job Earnings (Last 4 Weeks)	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alimony	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self Employment Income	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployment	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worker's Compensation	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annuity Income	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	\$		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 5. Vehicles. List any boats, airplanes, or other recreational vehicles that you own.

Type of Vehicle	Make	Year	Model

Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS)/Extra Help

- Helps cover Medicare drug coverage (Part D) costs for people with limited income and resources
- Benefits:
 - \$0 Part D premium (up to \$41.29 in MD for 2024)
 - \$0 deductible
 - Reduced prescription costs
 - Eliminates Part D late enrollment penalty
 - Quarterly Special Enrollment Period
 - Automatic enrollment with: Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, SSI
- Eligibility:
 - Income AND resources under a certain amount:
 - Single: \$22,590 income/\$17,220 assets
 - Couple: \$30,660 income/\$34,360 assets
 - To apply: visit [SSA.gov/extrahelp](https://www.ssa.gov/extrahelp) or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778)



Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program (SPDAP)

- Benefits
 - \$75/mo subsidy (in 2024) towards monthly premium for drug coverage
 - Option to switch drug plans one additional time each calendar year
- Eligibility
 - Show residency in Maryland for at least six months
 - Be a Medicare recipient and have Part D
 - Have an income at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level
 - Single: \$45,180
 - Couple: \$61,320
- To apply: visit <http://marylandspdap.com> or call 1-800-551-5995 (TTY: 1-800-877-5156)



Medicare and Medicaid

- Both provide publicly-funded health coverage, but they differ:

Medicare

Funding: full federal responsibility

Older adults age 65+ and people
with certain disabilities

Medicaid

Funding: federal and state shares

Low income individuals

- Option to enroll in both if eligible (i.e., dual eligible)
- Medicaid can:
 - Cover services and items that Medicare does not
 - Cover Medicare's out-of-pocket costs
- Once Medicare eligible, must have Medicare to have Medicaid
- Eligibility requirements for Medicaid are different for those who are Medicare eligible



Additional Support

- [Benefits Check-up](#) - benefits programs that can help pay for health care, medicine, food, utilities, and more
- [Medicare Interactive](#) – information about Medicare
- [Maryland Access Point](#) – options counseling and database of Maryland long term services and supports



Learn More

- [Differences between Original Medicare & Medicare Advantage](#)
- [Cost of Medicare](#)
- [What does Medicare cover?](#)
- [When to enroll?](#)
- Special Enrollment Periods:
 - [Part A and Part B SEPs](#)
 - [Part C and Part D SEPs](#)
- [How to enroll?](#)
- [Part D Low Income Subsidy/Extra Help](#)



SHIP Partnership Opportunities

- Free and unbiased
- 1:1 support
- Presentations and outreach
- SHIP can help with:
 - Enrollment and navigating enrollment periods
 - Understanding options
 - Plan comparison
 - Understanding coverage and costs
 - Submitting appeals and grievances
 - Benefit program eligibility and enrollment



Contact Your Local SHIP

aging.maryland.gov/ship

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