

# 2025 Medicare Open Enrollment



### Four steps

Know your insurance Learn about changes

Compare options

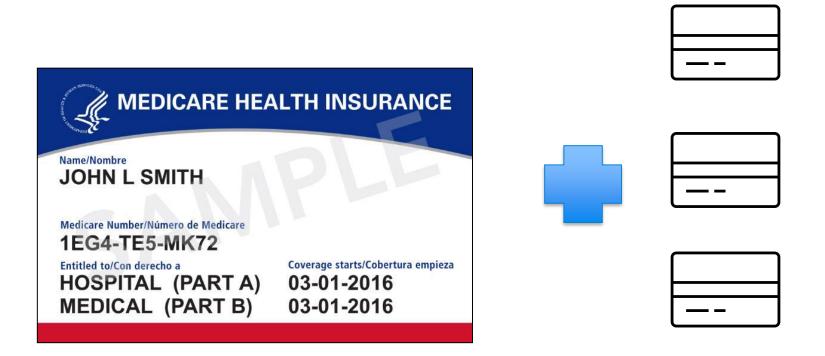
Take action



# Part 1: Know your insurance



### Medicare and additional insurance





# Employer group plan - retirees

This is insurance you have as former employee or as the dependent of one.

### Examples include:

- State of Washington: HCA PEBB
- Federal government agency, also TRICARE for Life
- Boeing and other private companies



# Medicaid – Apple Health

Insurance you have due to low monthly income, and you applied for benefits

- You have a "Provider 1" card with an ID number like WA12345678.
- You might have a managed care plan called a 'dual-eligible special needs plan or D-SNP.



### Commercial market

This is insurance you get from either:

- Medicare Advantage plan, with additional services like vision, dental, hearing and Rx drugs
- Medicare supplement plan like Plan G



### Other insurance

- Medicare Part D prescription drug plan
- Dental insurance
- VA Veteran's Administration
- IHS Indian Health Service
- More...



# Part 2: Learn about changes



# Has your **plan** changed?

### Your insurance plan might

- Discontinue service
- Reduce benefits
- Cost more
- Provider network
- Rx drugs



# Have your needs changed?

- New treatments
- Moved
- Income
- Doctors
- Prescriptions



# Employer group plan - retirees

- Look for a notice from the company or government agency.
- Check their website.
- Call the customer service number on your card.
- Check newsletters.

It's **OK** to ask lots of questions!

They might use a different company to manage benefits



# Medicaid – Apple Health

- Look for letters from DSHS or HCA or your community services office (CSO)
- Look for mail from Social Security (SSA)
- Check the web site for your insurance company
- Call the customer service number on your card
- Call DSHS

It's **OK** to ask lots of questions!



# Medicare Advantage plans

Medicare Advantage plans are **required** to send you an Annual Notice of Changes.

- Check your mail.
- Check your email (spam or junk folder?).
- Call the number on your insurance card.
- Check their website.

It's **OK** to ask lots of questions!



# Changes to watch out for

- Provider network
- Prescription drugs
- Covered benefits
- Rules about
  - Prior authorization
  - Referrals
- Co-pays, co-insurance, deductibles



### Medicare Part D plan

Medicare Part D plans are **required** to send you an Annual Notice of Change.

- Check your mail,
- Check your email (spam or junk folder?),
- Call the number on your insurance card,
- Check their website.

It's **OK** to ask lots of questions!



### Other insurance

For Medicare supplement plans and other insurance:

Call the customer service number on your card.



# Part 3: Compare options



# Employer group plan - retirees

- It might be best to stay with your group.
- The group might offer more than one option.
- Get help from the company or union or health plan to compare.



# Medicaid - Apple Health

If you're on Medicaid, and have Medicare Advantage plan & you want to change to a different Medicare Advantage plan in your county, you can:

- Use the Plan Finder tool on the Medicare website: <u>www.medicare.gov</u>.
- You can check our website for tips and how to's.



# Medicare Advantage plans

There are **lots** of <u>important</u> details.

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# Pro tip: Read the fine print

The "Evidence of Coverage" document is the most complete explanation of your rights and protections.

For details about your insurance, get this document and read it carefully – you can ask the company to send it **and** explain it.



### Plan Finder tool

#### **Create an account** at the Medicare website:

- Lists your drugs.
- Shows your providers and bills.
- Save your work for later.
- Easy to make changes.



# Do your research

# Your #1 priority is to make sure you have access to:

- Providers
  - Doctors
  - Local hospitals
- Rx drugs
- Covered benefits



### Make notes

- Write down the names and dates and phone numbers and websites.
- If you talk with an insurance agent, write down their license number.



### Take action



# Know your deadline

### The Medicare Open Enrollment period:

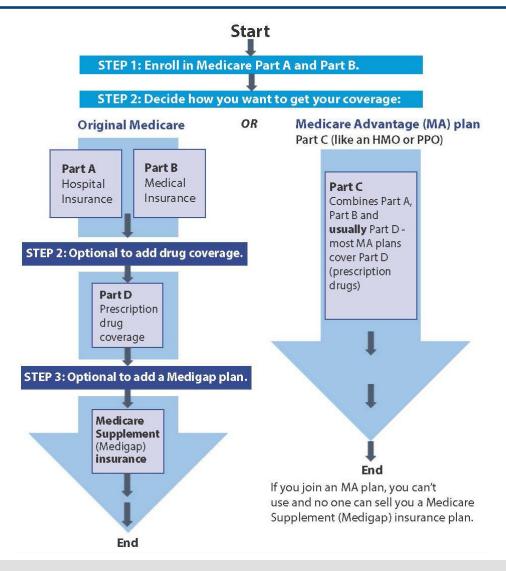
#### October 15 – December 7

- Employer group plans Set their own Open
   Enrollment Period

  Be sure to ask and confirm the dates
- Which forms you need to use.



# Medicare insurance approaches





Medicare Open Enrollment 3/18/2025 29

# Let's explore your options

Part D Rx coverage	Part D Rx coverage
Medicare Advantage w/Rx coverage	Medicare Advantage w/Rx coverage
Original Medicare	Medicare Advantage w/Rx coverage
Medicare Advantage w/Rx coverage	Original Medicare



### Part D to Part D

### Every year:

- Changes to formulary: List of covered drugs
- Network of retail pharmacies
- Your costs for each drug



#### MA-PD to MA-PD

### Every year:

- Changes to formulary: List of covered drugs
- Network for doctors, retail pharmacies
- Your costs for doctor visits, drugs, other services and supplies

Plan Finder tool: <u>www.medicare.gov</u>



# MA-PD to Original Medicare

### **Step 1:** Choose your new plan

- First apply for the new Medigap plan you want.
  - NOTE: There are certain rules you need to know.
- Next, choose and buy your Part D Rx plan.
- Plan Finder tool: <u>www.medicare.gov</u>
- Be sure to talk with your doctor

Step 2: Cancel your Medicare Advantage plan

At the end of 2025 – not earlier



### **SHIBA**

We care. We can help with Medicare.



# It's complex and we can help

- This journey is personal it's not the same for everyone.
- For most people, challenges happen all along the way – over the course of a lifetime.
- The systems are changing quickly and constantly technology matters a lot.

We are here for YOU.



### Beware of fraud!

We are the Senior Medicare Patrol project in Washington state.

"Prevent, detect, report fraud."

Call us or send a complaint on-line at our web site

1-800-562-6900

www.insurance.wa.gov



### Fraud

- I got supplies that I did not order. The invoice says no cost to me: Medicare paid. Is that OK?
- I got a bill from a doctor, but I don't recognize the provider's name. Is this fraud?



### Volunteers welcome

- If you'd like to learn more and meet interesting people and help your community
- We provide great, free training you can do this from home
- It's fun and meaningful



### Become a SHIBA volunteer

- Help others within your local community
- Rewarding
- Stimulating
- Continuous learning and training

We would love to have you volunteer with SHIBA!





# Need help with other insurance questions?

The Office of the Insurance Commissioner can also help you with questions, information and complaints about all types of insurance, such as:

- Homeowner Annuities
- Auto
- Life

- Health
- And more!

Call our Insurance Consumer Hotline:

1-800-562-6900

On the web at: www.insurance.wa.gov

