



CMS
NTP
NATIONAL
TRAINING PROGRAM
MODULE **0**

Medicare—Getting Started

Contents

Lesson 1 —What is Medicare?.....	4-19
Lesson 2 —Original Medicare—Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance).....	20-35
Lesson 3 —What’s a Medigap Policy?.....	36-41
Lesson 4 —Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D).....	42-51
Lesson 5 —Medicare Advantage (Part C)	52-61
Lesson 6 —Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplace.....	62-66
Lesson 7 —Help for People With Limited Income and Resources.....	67-73
Helpful Websites.....	74
Key Points to Remember	75
Acronyms.....	76-77

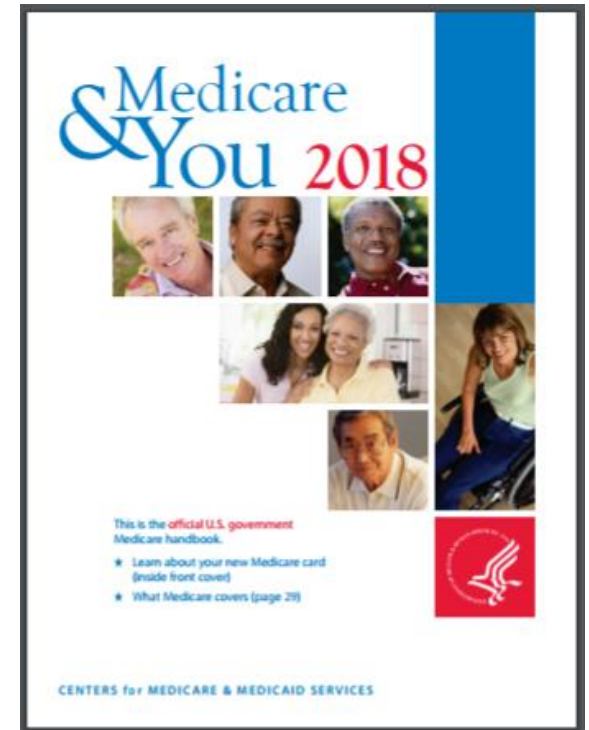
Session Objectives

- This session should help you
 - Compare the parts of Medicare and coverage options
 - Explain benefits and costs
 - Compare Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage (MA)
 - Discuss how Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policies and MA Plans are different
 - Describe the federally-facilitated Health Insurance Marketplace and what people about to get Medicare need to know
 - Recognize programs for people with limited income and resources

Lesson 1—What Is Medicare?

- Health insurance for people
 - 65 and older
 - Under 65 with certain disabilities
 - ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also called Lou Gehrig's disease) without a waiting period
 - Any age with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

NOTE: To get Medicare you must be a United States (U.S.) citizen or lawfully present in the U.S.



CMS Product No. 10050

What Agencies are Responsible for Medicare?

They Handle Enrollment,
Premiums, and
Replacement Medicare
Cards



Social Security Administration (SSA) enrolls most people in Medicare



Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) enrolls railroad retirees in Medicare



Federal retirees' premiums are handled by the **Office of Personnel Management**



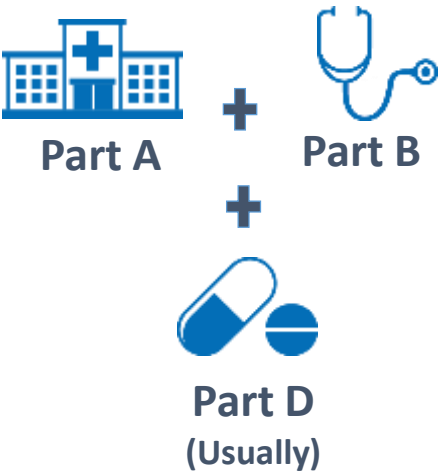

We Handle the Rest



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) administers the Medicare Program

What Are the 4 Parts of Medicare?

Throughout this training, these icons are used to identify the part of Medicare being discussed.

Original Medicare		Medicare Advantage	Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage
 Part A Hospital Insurance	 Part B Medical Insurance	 Part D (Usually)	 Part D Medicare prescription drug coverage
		Medicare Advantage is also called Part C	

Your 2 Main Medicare Coverage Choices

Option 1: Original Medicare

This includes Part A and/or Part B.



Part A



Part B

Hospital Insurance

Medical Insurance

You can add:



Part D

Medicare prescription drug coverage

You can also add:



Medigap

Medicare Supplement Insurance

Option 2: Medicare Advantage (Part C)

These plans are like HMOs or PPOs and typically include Part D.



Part A

Hospital Insurance



Part B

Medical Insurance



Part D

Medicare prescription drug coverage

Your Medicare Options—Original Medicare



Part A

Hospital Insurance



Part B

Medical Insurance

You can add:



Part D

Medicare prescription drug coverage

You can also add:



Medigap

Medicare Supplement Insurance

- Original Medicare is Part A (Hospital Insurance) and/or Part B (Medical Insurance)
- Medicare provides coverage
- You have your choice of doctors, hospitals, and other providers that are accepting new Medicare patients
 - Costs are affected by whether or not they accept **assignment**, which is an agreement by your doctor, provider, or supplier to be paid directly by Medicare, to accept the payment amount Medicare approves for the service, and not to bill you for any more than the Medicare deductible and coinsurance

Automatic Enrollment—Part A and Part B

- Automatic enrollment for those receiving
 - Social Security benefits
 - RRB benefits
- Initial Enrollment Period (IEP) Package
 - Mailed 3 months before
 - 65 or
 - 25th month of disability benefits
 - Includes your Medicare card



Your Medicare Card

- CMS is issuing new Medicare cards
- New to Medicare/automatically enrolled?
 - Keep it to accept Part B
 - Return it to refuse Part B
 - ❑ Follow instructions on back of card
- Not new to Medicare/self-enrolled?
 - You'll get a new card by April 2019
 - Destroy your old card and start using the new one right away



For more information, or to see when the new Medicare card will mail to your state, visit [Medicare.gov/newcard](https://www.Medicare.gov/newcard).

**Social Security Number
removed from new card.
New number unique to you.**

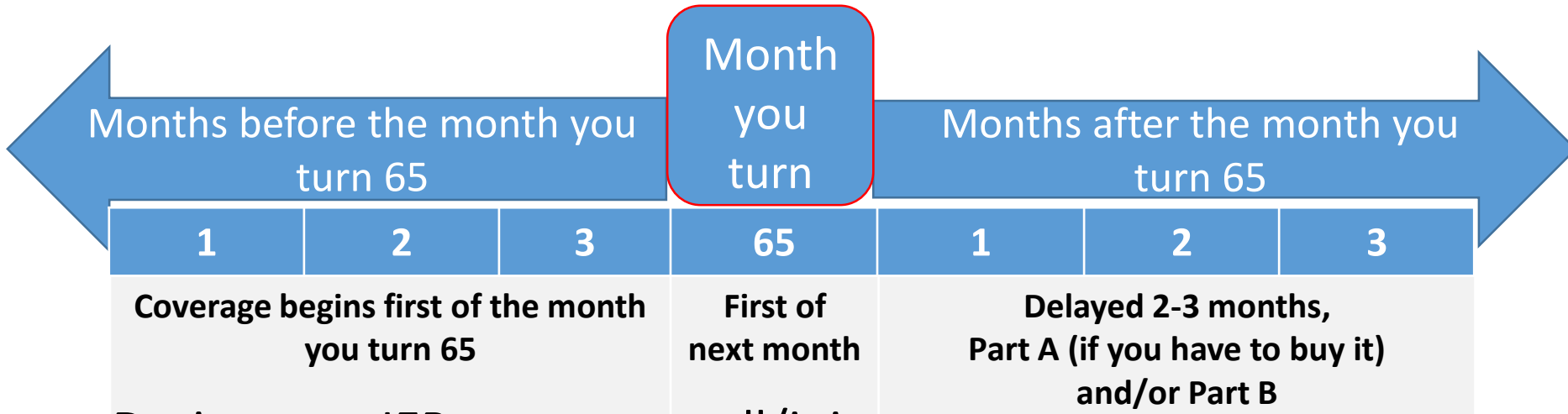
You Must Take Action to Enroll in Medicare When It's Not Automatic



- If you're not automatically enrolled in Part A and Part B (not getting Social Security or RRB benefits)
 - You need to enroll with Social Security
 - ❑ Visit [socialsecurity.gov](https://www.socialsecurity.gov), or
 - ❑ Call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778)
 - ❑ Make an appointment to visit your local office
 - If retired from a railroad, enroll with the RRB
 - ❑ Call your local RRB office at 1-877-772-5772

Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)

7-Month Period



During your IEP you can enroll/join

- ✓ Part A
- ✓ Part B
- ✓ Medicare Advantage (Part C) (if you have Part A and Part B)
- ✓ Part D (if you have Part A and/or Part B)
- ✓ Medigap policy (must have Part A and Part B). Medigap Open Enrollment Period (OEP) lasts 6 months from when you are both 65 and have Part B)

No late enrollment penalties

Yearly Open Enrollment Period (OEP) for People with Medicare



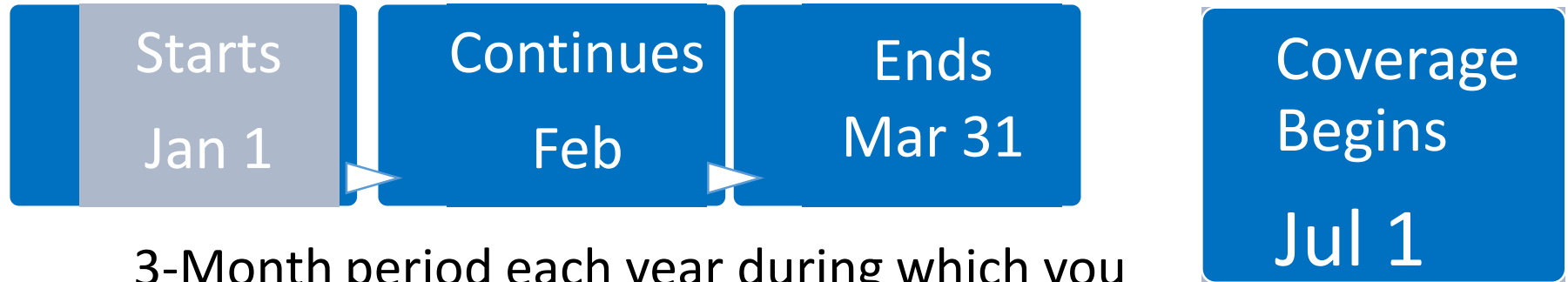
Period each year during which you can join, switch, or drop your

- ✓ Medicare Advantage Plan
- ✓ Part D Plan, or
- ✓ Return to Original Medicare

**No new LEPs
because you must
already be
enrolled in
Medicare**

This is a time to review health and drug plan choices

General Enrollment Period (GEP)



3-Month period each year during which you can enroll/join

✓ Part A

✓ Part B

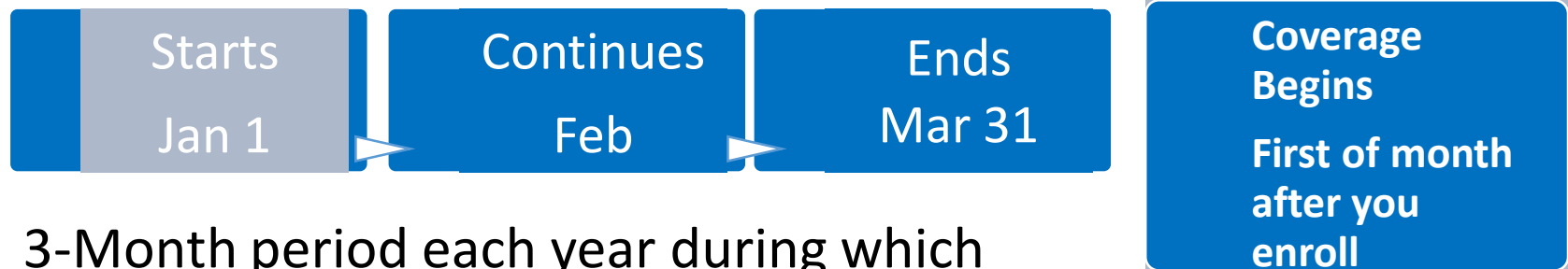
If you enroll in Medicare during the GEP (dates above), from April 1-June 30, you can then sign up for

✓ Medicare Advantage (Part C) (if you have Part A and Part B)

✓ Part D (if you have Part A and/or Part B)

May have LEPs

NEW: Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MA OEP)



3-Month period each year during which you can

- ✓ Switch MA Plans (MA-PD to MA, or MA to MA-PD)
- ✓ Drop MA Plan and return to Original Medicare
 - If you do, you can enroll in a Part D plan
 - You won't have a Guaranteed Issue Right for a Medigap policy

You must already be in an MA Plan on January 1 to use this enrollment period.

Doesn't apply to Medicare Savings Accounts (MSAs) or Cost Plans.

Medicare Special Enrollment Period (SEP)— Group Health Plan (GHP) Coverage Ends



8-Month period when you can enroll in

✓ Part A

Usually no LEPs

✓ Part B

If you enroll during SEP

✓ Medicare Advantage (Part C)

✓ Part D

You have 6 months from the Part B effective date to
buy a Medigap policy

Other Medicare Special Enrollment Periods (SEPs)

- You move out of your plan's service area
- You have Medicaid and Medicare
- Your plan leaves the Medicare Program or reduces its service area
- You leave or lose employer or union coverage
- You enter, live at, or leave a long-term care facility (like a nursing home)
- In 2018 you have a continuous (SEP) if you qualify for Extra Help
 - New in 2019 - Once per calendar quarter during first 9 months each year
- You lose your Extra Help status
- You're sent a retroactive notice of Medicare entitlement
- Other exceptional circumstances

5-Star Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

- Can switch to 5-Star MA Plan, PDP, MA-PD, or Cost Plan
- Enroll once per year from December 8, 2018–November 30, 2019
- New plan starts first day of month after enrolled
- Star ratings given once per year
 - Ratings assigned in October and effective January 1
 - Use Medicare Plan Finder to see star ratings, visit [Medicare.gov/find-a-plan](https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan)
 - Look at Overall Star Rating to find eligible plans



Check Your Knowledge—Question 1

Why is your Medicare IEP important?

- a. Missed enrollment deadlines could result in penalties
- b. It's your first opportunity to enroll in Medicare
- c. When you enroll impacts when your coverage begins
- d. All of the above

Lesson 2—Original Medicare

Part A and Part B

- Part A (Hospital Insurance)
 - Coverage and costs
- Part B (Medical Insurance)
 - Coverage and costs
 - If you have active employment

Original Medicare Coverage

Part A—Hospital Insurance

Part A—Hospital Insurance helps cover medically necessary



Part A
Hospital Insurance

- ✓ Inpatient hospital care
 - Semi-private room, meals, general nursing, other hospital services and supplies, as well as care in inpatient rehabilitation facilities and inpatient mental health care in a psychiatric hospital (lifetime 190-day limit)
- ✓ Inpatient Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) care
 - After a related 3-day inpatient hospital stay
 - If you meet all the criteria

Original Medicare

Part A—Hospital Insurance (continued)



Part A
Hospital Insurance

Part A—Hospital Insurance helps cover

- ✓ Blood (inpatient)
- ✓ Certain inpatient non-religious, nonmedical health care in approved religious nonmedical institutions (RNHCIs)
- ✓ Home health care
- ✓ Hospice care

☒ **What's not covered?**

- Private-duty nursing
- Private room (unless medically necessary)
- Television and phone in your room (if there's a separate charge for these items)
- Personal care items, like razors or slipper socks

Paying for Medicare Part A



Part A
Hospital Insurance

- Most people don't pay a premium for Part A
 - If you paid Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes for at least 10 years
- If you paid FICA less than 10 years, you can pay a premium to get Part A
- May have a penalty if you don't enroll when first eligible for Part A (if you had to pay for it)
 - Your monthly premium may go up 10%
 - You'll have to pay the higher premium for twice the number of years you could've had Part A, but didn't sign up

Part A—What You Pay in Original Medicare

Hospital Inpatient Stay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The \$1,340 deductible and no coinsurance for days 1–60 of each benefit period▪ \$335 per day for days 61–90 each benefit period▪ \$670 per “lifetime reserve day” after day 90 of each benefit period (up to 60 days over your lifetime)▪ All costs for each day after the lifetime reserve days▪ Inpatient mental health care in a psychiatric hospital limited to 190 days in a lifetime
Skilled Nursing Facility Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$0 for the first 20 days of each benefit period▪ \$167.50 per day for days 21–100 of each benefit period▪ All costs for each day after day 100 in a benefit period
Home Health Care Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$0 for home health care services▪ 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for durable medical equipment (DME)

Benefit Periods in Original Medicare

- Measures use of inpatient hospital and SNF services
 - Begins the day you first get inpatient care in hospital or SNF
 - Ends when not in a hospital/SNF 60 days in a row
- Pay Part A deductible for each benefit period
- No limit to number of benefit periods you can have

Ends 60 days in a row here...



Home

Not here...



Hospital
or SNF

Benefit periods can span across calendar years.

Decision: Do I Need to Sign up for Part A?

- Consider
 - It's free for most people
 - You can pay for it if your work history isn't sufficient
 - There may be a penalty if you delay
 - Talk to your benefits administrator if you/your spouse is actively working and covered by an employer plan
- Stop contributions to your Health Savings Account (HSA) 6 months prior to enrollment

Original Medicare

Part B—Medical Insurance

Part B—Medical Insurance helps cover medically necessary

- ✓ Doctors' services
- ✓ Outpatient medical and surgical services and supplies
- ✓ Clinical lab tests
- ✓ DME (may need to use certain suppliers)
- ✓ Diabetic testing supplies
- ✓ Preventive services (like flu shots and a yearly wellness visit)
- ✓ Home health care



Part B
Medical Insurance

What You Pay—Part B Premiums



■ Monthly Premium

- Standard premium is \$134 (may have to pay a higher amount depending on your income, see next slide)
- Average premium is \$130 (if receiving Social Security benefits)

Monthly Part B Standard Premium—Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) for 2018

Chart is based on your yearly income *in 2016* (for what you pay in 2018)

File Individual Tax Return	File Joint Tax Return	File Married & Separate Tax Return	In 2018 You Pay
\$85,000 or less	\$170,000 or less	\$85,000 or less	\$134.00
Above \$85,000 up to \$107,000	Above \$170,000 up to \$214,000	Not applicable	\$187.50
Above \$107,000 up to \$133,500	Above \$214,000 up to \$267,000	Not applicable	\$267.90
Above \$133,500 up to \$160,000	Above \$267,000 up to \$320,000	Not applicable	\$348.30
Above \$160,000	Above \$320,000	Above \$85,000	\$428.60

NOTE: You may pay more if you have a Part B late enrollment penalty (LEP).

Part B—What You Pay in Original Medicare

Yearly Deductible	\$183
Coinsurance for Part B Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 20% coinsurance for most covered services, like doctor's services and some preventive services, if provider accepts assignment■ \$0 for most preventive services■ 20% coinsurance for outpatient mental health services, and copayments for hospital outpatient services

Decision: Should I Keep/Sign up for Part B?



- Consider
 - Most people pay a monthly premium
 - ❑ Usually deducted from Social Security/RRB benefits
 - ❑ Amount depends on income
 - It may supplement employer coverage
 - ❑ Contact your benefits administrator to understand the impact to your employer plan



When You Must Have Part B



Part B
Medical Insurance

- If you want to buy a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) Policy
- If you want to join a Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan
- You're eligible for TRICARE for Life (TFL) or Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)
- Your employer coverage requires you have it (less than 20 employees)
 - Talk to your employer or union benefits administrator
- Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits are separate from Medicare
- You pay a penalty if you sign up late or if you don't sign up during your IEP

Part B and Active Employment



Part B

Medical Insurance

- If you don't have coverage from active employment
 - Delaying Part B may mean
 - Higher premiums
 - Paying for your health care out-of-pocket
 - Waiting until next General Enrollment Period (GEP) to enroll (January 1–March 31)
 - With coverage not starting until July 1
- If you do have coverage through active employment
 - You may want to delay Part B
 - No penalty if you enroll while you have coverage or within 8 months of losing coverage

Check Your Knowledge—Question 2

Medicare Part A helps pay for all of the following when medically necessary and requirements are met, EXCEPT for...

- a. Diabetic testing supplies
- b. An inpatient hospital stay
- c. An inpatient SNF stay
- d. Hospice care

Check Your Knowledge—Question 3

For Medicare Part B,
in most cases, you pay
_____.

- a. A monthly premium
- b. A yearly deductible
- c. 20% coinsurance for most covered services
- d. All of the above

Lesson 3—What's a Medigap Policy?

Original Medicare



Part A



Part B

Hospital Insurance

Medical Insurance

You can add:



Part D

Medicare prescription drug coverage

You can also add:



Medigap

Medicare Supplement Insurance

- Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) Policies
 - Sold by private insurance companies
- Fills gaps in Original Medicare coverage
 - Deductibles, coinsurance, copayments
- All plans with same letter
 - Have same coverage
 - Costs are different
- Plans are different in Minnesota, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin

Medigap Plan Types

Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) plans										
Benefits	A	B	C	D	F*	G	K	L	M	N
Part A coinsurance and hospital costs (up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are used up)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Part B coinsurance or copayment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	100%	100%***
Blood (first 3 pints)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	100%	100%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	100%	100%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance			100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	100%	100%
Part A deductible		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	50%	100%
Part B deductible			100%		100%					
Part B excess charges					100%	100%				
Foreign travel emergency (up to plan limits)			80%	80%	80%	80%			80%	80%
Out-of-Pocket Limit in 2018**							\$5,240	\$2,620		

*Plan F is also offers a high-deductible plan in some states. If you choose this option, this means you must pay for Medicare-covered costs (coinsurance, copayments, deductibles) up to the deductible amount of \$2,240 in 2018 before your policy pays anything.

**For Plans K and L, after you meet your out-of-pocket yearly limit and your yearly Part B deductible (\$183 in 2018), the Medigap plan pays 100% of covered services for the rest of the calendar year.

***Plan N pays 100% of the Part B coinsurance, except for a copayment of up to \$20 for some office visits and up to a \$50 copayment for emergency room visits that don't result in an inpatient admission.

Decision: Do I Need a Medigap Policy?

- Consider
 - It only works with Original Medicare
 - Do you have other supplemental coverage?
 - Like from an employer
 - If so, you might not need Medigap
 - Can you afford Medicare deductibles and copayments?
 - What does the monthly Medigap premium cost?



Medigap Policy

When Is the Best Time to Buy a Medigap Policy?

■ Consider

- Your Medigap Open Enrollment Period (OEP) begins the month you're 65 or older AND enrolled in Part B
 - ❑ Lasts 6 months minimum, may be longer in your state
 - ❑ You have protections—companies MUST sell you a plan if in your OEP
- During your Medigap OEP, companies can't do the following:
 - ❑ Refuse to sell you any Medigap policy they offer
 - ❑ Make you wait for coverage (there can be a waiting period for pre-existing conditions if you don't have creditable coverage before the OEP)
 - ❑ Charge more because of a past/present health problem
- You can also buy a Medigap policy whenever a company agrees to sell you one
 - ❑ If later, there may be restrictions



Medigap Policy

How To Buy a Medigap Policy

- Decide which Medigap Plan (A–N) has the benefits you need
 - Compare plans by computer or phone
 - Visit [Medicare.gov/find-a-plan](https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan) and use the Medigap comparison tool
 - Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227); TTY: 1-877-486-2048
- Find out which insurance companies sell Medigap policies in your state
 - Contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at shiptacenter.org, your State Insurance Department, or visit [Medicare.gov/find-a-plan](https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan)
 - Check if your state extends protections for those with a disability
- Call the insurance companies and shop around for the best plan at a price you can afford
- Once you choose the insurance company and the Medigap plan, apply for the policy



Medigap Policy

Check Your Knowledge—Question 4

Medigap policies may help pay for prescription drug copayments.

a. True

b. False

Lesson 4—Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D)

Original Medicare



Part A

Hospital Insurance



Part B

Medical Insurance

You can add:



Part D

Medicare prescription drug coverage

You can also add:



Medigap

Medicare Supplement Insurance

- Available for all people with Medicare
- Run by private companies that contract with Medicare
- Provided through
 - Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) (work with Original Medicare)
 - Medicare Advantage (MA) Prescription Drug Plans (MA-PDs)
 - Some other Medicare health plans
 - Like Cost Plans

Medicare Drug Plan Costs— What You Pay in 2018



Part D
Medicare
prescription
drug coverage

- **Yearly deductible** (if applicable)
- **Copayments or coinsurance**
 - Varies by plan, pharmacy, which drugs you're prescribed
 - Pay regular copayment or coinsurance until you and your drug plan have spent a certain amount of money for covered drugs (\$3,750) and you reach the **Coverage Gap**
 - You pay 35% for covered brand-name drugs in the coverage gap
 - You pay 44% for covered generic drugs in the coverage gap
 - Pay a small coinsurance amount or copayment for covered drugs after spending \$5,000 out-of-pocket (out of the Coverage Gap) and automatically get Catastrophic Coverage
- **Monthly plan premium**
 - Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) applies

Part D—Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA)

Chart is based on your yearly income *in 2016* (for what you pay in 2018)

Filing an Individual Tax Return	Filing a Joint Tax Return	File Married & Separate Tax Return	In 2018 You Pay Monthly
\$85,000 or less	\$170,000 or less	\$85,000 or less	Your Plan Premium (YPP)
Above \$85,000 up to \$107,000	Above \$170,000 up to \$214,000	Not applicable	YPP + \$13.00*
Above \$107,000 up to \$133,500	Above \$214,000 up to \$267,000	Not applicable	YPP + \$33.60*
Above \$133,500 up to \$160,000	Above \$267,000 up to \$320,000	Not applicable	YPP + \$54.20*
Above \$160,000	Above \$320,000	Above \$85,000	YPP + \$74.80*

*IRMAA is adjusted each year, as it's calculated from the annual beneficiary base premium.

How Medicare Part D Works



Part D
Medicare
prescription drug
coverage

- It's optional
 - You can choose a plan and join
 - May pay a lifetime penalty if you join late
- Plans have formularies
 - Lists of covered drugs
 - Must include range of drugs in each category
 - Are subject to change—you'll be notified
- You pay the plan a monthly premium
- You pay deductibles and copayments
- You're out-of-pocket cost may be less if you use a preferred pharmacy
- If you have limited income and resources, there's Extra Help to pay Part D costs

Who can join Part D?



Part D
Medicare
prescription drug
coverage

- You must
 - Have Medicare Part A and/or Part B to join a Medicare PDP
 - Have Medicare Part A and Part B to join an MA Plan with drug coverage (MA-PD)
 - Have Medicare Part A and Part B or only Part B to join a Medicare Cost Plan with Part D coverage
 - Live in the plan's service area
 - Not be incarcerated
 - Not be unlawfully present in the United States (U.S.)
 - Not live outside the U.S.
- You must join a plan to get drug coverage

When Can I Enroll in a Part D Plan?



Part D
Medicare
prescription drug
coverage

- During your 7-month Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)
- During the yearly Open Enrollment Period (OEP)
 - October 15–December 7 each year
 - Coverage begins January 1
- If you get Part B for the first time during a General Enrollment Period (GEP) you can join a Part D plan from April 1-June 30 with coverage starting July 1
- May be able to join at other times
 - MA OEP (January 1 – March 31 each year)
 - Must be in an MA Plan already on January 1
 - Special Enrollment Period (SEP)
 - For example, anytime you get Extra Help (in 2018)
 - In 2019, once per quarter for the first 3 quarters of the year
 - 5-star SEP

Choosing a Part D Plan



Part D
Medicare
prescription drug
coverage

- Compare plans by computer or phone
 - Use the Medicare Plan Finder at [Medicare.gov/find-a-plan](https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan)
 - Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227); TTY: 1-877-486-2048
 - Contact your SHIP for help comparing plans
- To join a Part D Plan
 - Enroll at [Medicare.gov/find-a-plan](https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan)
 - Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227); TTY: 1-877-486-2048
 - Enroll on the plan's website or call the plan
 - Complete a paper enrollment form

Decision: Should I Enroll in a Part D Plan?



Part D
Medicare
prescription drug
coverage

- Consider
 - Do you have creditable drug coverage?
 - Coverage as good as Medicare's
 - For example, through an employer plan
 - No penalty if you have creditable drug coverage and delay enrolling in a Medicare drug plan
 - Will that coverage end when you retire?
 - How much do your current drugs cost?
 - What do the premiums cost for Part D plans?
- Without creditable coverage
 - Later enrollment may mean you pay a penalty
 - If you to 63 or more days in a row without creditable coverage

Check Your Knowledge—Question 5

Medicare prescription drug coverage is also called _____.

- a. Part A
- b. Part B
- c. Part D
- d. All of the above

Check Your Knowledge—Question 6

It's July. You enrolled in Medicare last year but didn't enroll in a Medicare drug plan. Generally, when is your next chance to enroll in Part D?

a. OEP

b. IEP

c. Your next birthday

d. 12 months after your IEP

Lesson 5—Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans

Medicare Advantage

includes



Part A
Hospital
Insurance



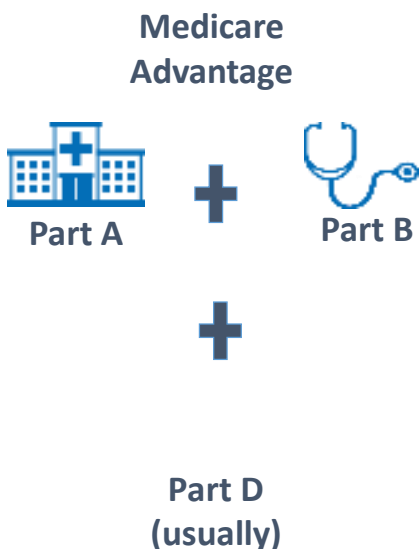
Part B
Medical
Insurance



Part D
Medicare prescription drug
coverage
(usually)

- Offered by Medicare–approved private companies
 - Must follow Medicare rules
 - Another way to get Medicare coverage
 - Still have Medicare but your Part A and Part B coverage is from the MA Plan
- In most cases you have to use healthcare providers in the plan’s network
 - Some plans offer out-of-network coverage
- You can’t enroll in (and don’t need) a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy while you’re in an MA Plan

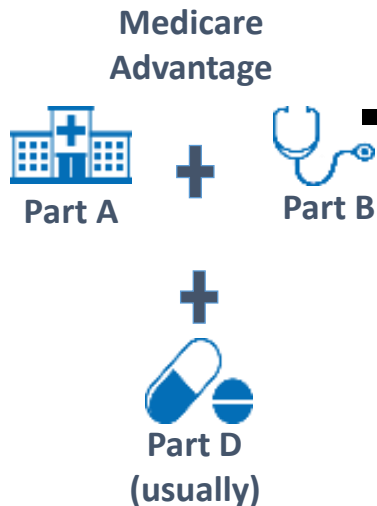
How Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans Work



- You're always covered for emergency and urgent care.
- You're covered by the plan for all Part A and Part B services.
 - Original Medicare will still cover the cost for hospice care, some new Medicare benefits, and some costs for clinical research studies.
- You may have coverage for things that aren't covered by Original Medicare, like vision, hearing, dental, and other health and wellness programs.
- Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) is usually included.
- You pay your Part B premium, and you might have to pay a monthly premium for the MA Plan.
- You (or a provider acting on your behalf) can request to see if an item or service will be covered by the plan in advance (called an organization determination.) Contact your plan for more information.
- Each plan can charge different out-of-pocket costs and have different rules for how you get services. These rules can change each year.
- MA Plans can't charge more than Original Medicare for certain services, like chemotherapy, dialysis, and skilled nursing facility care.
- MA Plans have a yearly limit on your out-of-pocket costs for medical services.

When Can I Enroll in a Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan?

- Generally during your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)
 - If so, can change to another MA Plan (with or without drug coverage) or go back to Original Medicare (with or without drug coverage) within the first 3 months you have Medicare

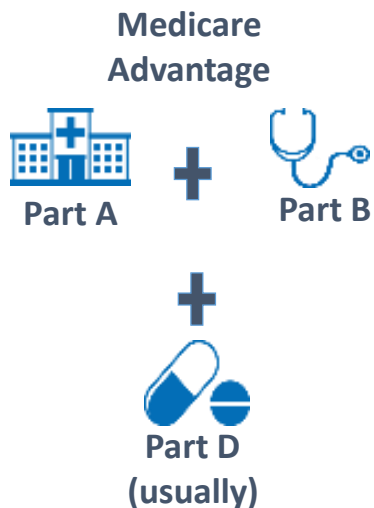


- New yearly MA Open Enrollment Period (MA OEP)

- One-time change during January 1 – March 31 each year with coverage beginning the first of the following month
- Must already be enrolled in an MA Plan to use the MA OEP
 - You can switch to another MA Plan with or without drug coverage
 - You can disenroll from your plan and return to Original Medicare
 - If you return to Original Medicare, you can also join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan if you make this change

NOTE: If you drop a Medigap policy to join an MA Plan, you might not be able to get it back. Check with your state.

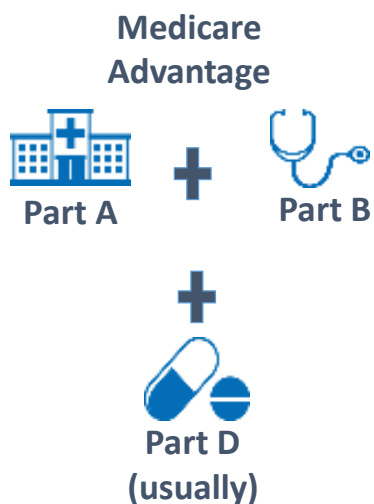
When Can I Enroll in a Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan? (continued)



- If you have Part A and enroll in Medicare Part B during a General Enrollment Period (GEP), you can enroll in an MA Plan April 1–June 30 with coverage starting July 1
- Special Enrollment Period (SEP) in certain circumstances
 - Examples include
 - ❑ You move out of your plan’s service area
 - ❑ You have or lose Medicaid or Extra Help
 - ❑ You live in an institution (like a nursing home)
- 5-star SEP
 - Can switch to an MA Plan or Medicare Cost Plan that has 5 stars for its overall star rating
 - From December 8, 2018 – November 30, 2019

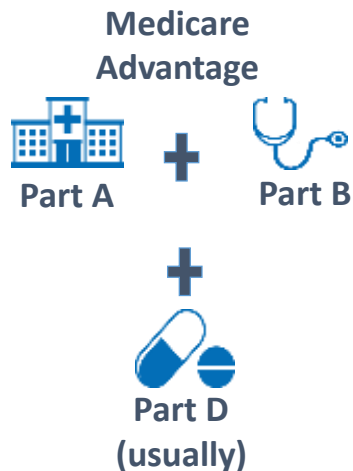
How Do I Enroll in a Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan?

- Use [Medicare's Plan Finder](#)
- Visit the plan's website to see if you can join online
- Fill out a paper enrollment form
 - Contact the plan to get an enrollment form, fill it out, and return it to the plan
 - All plans must offer this option
- Call the plan you want to join
 - Get your plan's contact information from a [Personalized Search \(under General Search\)](#), or [search by plan name](#)
- Call us at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)



Decision: Should I Join an MA Plan?

■ Consider



- You must have Part A and Part B to join
- Most offer comprehensive coverage
 - Including Part D drug coverage
- Some plans may require you to use a network
- You may need a referral to see a specialist
- You must pay the Part B and the monthly plan premium
- You can only join/leave plan during certain periods
- It doesn't work with Medigap policies
- It's NOT available to MOST people with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)
- They send notices to members each year
 - Annual Notice of Change (ANOC)
 - Evidence of Coverage (EOC)

Decision Comparison Summary: How They Work—Coverage

Original Medicare	MA Plan (Part C)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Covers Part A and Part B benefits■ Medicare provides this coverage directly■ You have your choice of doctors and hospitals that are enrolled in Medicare and accepting new Medicare patients■ Generally, you or your supplemental coverage pay deductibles and coinsurance■ You usually pay a monthly premium for Part B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Covers Part A and Part B benefits and may cover additional benefits (like vision or dental)■ Coverage provided by private insurance companies approved by Medicare■ In most plans, you need to use plan doctors, hospitals, or other providers or you pay more or all of the costs■ You may pay a monthly premium (in addition to your Part B premium) and a copayment or coinsurance for covered services

How Are Medigap Policies and MA Plans Different?

	Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) Policies	Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans (Part C)
Offered by	Private companies	Private companies
Government Oversight	State, but must also follow federal laws	Federal (plans must be approved by Medicare)
Works with	Original Medicare	N/A
Covers	Gaps in Original Medicare coverage, like deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments for Medicare-covered services.	All Part A and Part B covered services and supplies. May also cover things not covered by Original Medicare, like vision and dental coverage. Most MA Plans include Medicare prescription drug coverage.
You must have	Part A and Part B	Part A and Part B
Do you pay a premium?	Yes. You pay a premium for the policy and you pay the Part B premium.	Yes. In most cases you pay a premium for the plan and you pay the Part B premium.

Check Your Knowledge—Question 7

MA Plans

_____.

- a. Help pay for gaps in Original Medicare
- b. Must keep the same providers all year
- c. Are private plans approved by each state
- d. Must cover all Medicare Part A and Part B services

Check Your Knowledge—Question 8

Generally, if you have ESRD you can't enroll in an MA Plan.

a. True

b. False

Lesson 6—Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplace

- If you have Medicare, no one can sell you a Marketplace plan
 - Even if you only have Medicare Part A or Part B
 - Except through the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) if you're an active worker or a dependent of an active worker
 - The size of the employer determines who pays first
 - No late enrollment penalty if you enroll anytime you have SHOP coverage, or within 8 months of losing that coverage
- SHOP plans for 2018 will be available through issuers, agents, and brokers, not through [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov)

Marketplace and Becoming Eligible for Medicare

- You can keep a Marketplace plan after your Medicare coverage begins
 - Once your Medicare Part A coverage starts, you'll no longer be eligible for any premium tax credits or other cost savings you may be getting for your Marketplace plan
 - You'd have to pay full price for the Marketplace plan
- Sign up for Medicare during your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)
 - Or, if you enroll later, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty (LEP) for as long as you have Medicare
 - Limited equitable relief until September 30, 2018, for Part B LEP

Medicare for People With Disabilities and the Marketplace

- You may qualify for Medicare based on a disability
 - You must be entitled to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits for 24 months
 - On the 25th month, you're automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B
- If you're getting SSDI, you can get a Marketplace plan to cover you during your 24-month waiting period
 - You may qualify for premium tax credits and reduced cost-sharing until your Medicare coverage starts

Choosing Marketplace Instead of Medicare

You can choose Marketplace coverage instead of Medicare under the following conditions:

- If you're paying a premium for Part A—you can drop your Part A and Part B coverage and get a Marketplace plan instead
- Only have Part B, and have to pay a premium for Part A—you can drop Part B and get a Marketplace plan instead
- You're eligible for Medicare but haven't enrolled in it because:
 - You'd have to pay a premium for Part A
 - You have a medical condition that qualifies you for Medicare, like End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) but haven't applied for Medicare coverage
 - You're in your 24-month disability waiting period

Check Your Knowledge—Question 9

It's against the law for someone to sell you a Marketplace plan if they know you have Medicare.

a. True

b. False

Lesson 7—Help for People with Limited Income and Resources

- Medicare Savings Programs
 - Help from your state paying Medicare costs, including Medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance
- Extra Help
 - Help paying Part D prescription drug costs
- Medicaid
 - Federal-state health insurance program
 - For people with limited income/resources
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
 - Covers uninsured children up to 19 and may cover pregnant women
 - Family income too high for Medicaid

2018 Medicare Savings Program

Income/Resource Limits

Medicare Savings Program	Individual Monthly Income Limit*	Married Couple Monthly Income Limit*	Helps Pay Your
Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)	\$1,032	\$1,392	Part A and Part B premiums, and other cost-sharing (like deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments)
Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)	\$1,234	\$1,666	Part B premiums only
Qualifying Individual (QI)	\$1,386	\$1,872	Part B premiums only
Qualified Disabled & Working Individuals (QDWI)	\$4,132	\$5,572	Part A premiums only

*Visit your state's MSP Website

What is Extra Help?



Part D
Medicare
prescription
drug coverage

- Program to help people pay for Medicare prescription drug costs (Part D)
 - Also called the Low-income subsidy (LIS)
- If you have lowest income and resources
 - Pay no premiums or deductible, and small or no copayments
- If you have slightly higher income and resources
 - Pay reduced deductible and a little more out of pocket
- No coverage gap or late enrollment penalty (LEP) if you qualify for Extra Help
- **Special Enrollment Period Change for 2019**

NEW

Qualifying for Extra Help



Part D
Medicare
prescription
drug coverage

- You automatically qualify for Extra Help if you get
 - Full Medicaid coverage
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Help from Medicaid paying your Medicare premiums
- All others must apply
 - Online at [socialsecurity.gov](https://www.socialsecurity.gov)
 - Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778)
 - Ask for “Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs” (SSA-1020)
 - Contact your state Medicaid agency

What is Medicaid?

- Federal and state program
- Medical assistance for people with limited income and resources
- Covers about 74 million adults and children
 - Medicaid—68 million individuals enrolled
 - CHIP—6 million individuals enrolled
- Supplements Medicare for more than 10 million people who are aged and/or disabled

How Are Medicare and Medicaid Different?

Medicare	Medicaid
National program that's consistent across the country	Statewide programs that vary among states
Administered by the federal government	Administered by state governments within federal rules (federal/state partnership)
Health insurance for people 65 and older, people under 65 with certain disabilities, or any age with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)	Health insurance for people based on need, financial and non-financial requirements
Nation's primary payer of inpatient hospital services to the disabled, elderly and people with ESRD	Nation's primary public payer of acute health care, mental health, and long-term care services

What is the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)?

- Health coverage for uninsured children in families who earn too much for Medicaid, but too little for private insurance
- Jointly funded by federal and state governments
- Administered by states
- Over 8.4 million children enrolled
- To see CHIP information by state, visit [Medicaid.gov/chip/state-program-information/chip-state-program-information.html](https://www.Medicaid.gov/chip/state-program-information/chip-state-program-information.html).

Helpful Websites

- Medicare - [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov)
- Medicaid - [Medicaid.gov](https://www.Medicaid.gov)
- Social Security - [socialsecurity.gov](https://www.socialsecurity.gov)
- Health Insurance Marketplace - [HealthCare.gov](https://www.HealthCare.gov)
- Children's Health Insurance Program - [InsureKidsNow.gov](https://www.InsureKidsNow.gov)
- CMS National Training Program - [CMSnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov](https://www.CMSnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov)
- SHIP [Medicare.gov/contacts](https://www.Medicare.gov/contacts)

Key Points to Remember

- Medicare is a health insurance program
- It doesn't cover all of your health care costs
- You have choices in how you get coverage
- There are programs for people with limited income and resources
- Decisions affect the type of coverage you get
- Certain decisions are time-sensitive
- You can get help if you need it

Acronyms

ALS Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
(Lou Gehrig's disease)

CHAMPVA Civilian Health and
Medical Program of the Department
of Veterans Affairs

CHIP Children's Health Insurance
Program

CMS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
Services

COBRA Consolidated Omnibus Budget
Reconciliation Act

EGHP Employer Group Health Plan

ESRD End-Stage Renal Disease

FICA Federal Insurance Contributions
Act

FPL Federal Poverty Level

GEP General Enrollment Period

HMO Health Maintenance
Organization

HSA Health Savings Account

IEP Initial Enrollment Period

IRMAA Income-Related Monthly
Adjustment Amount

IRS Internal Revenue Service

LEP Late Enrollment Penalty

MA Medicare Advantage

MA-PD Medicare Advantage
Prescription Drug

MEC Minimal Essential Coverage

MSA Medical Savings Account

NTP National Training Program

Acronyms (continued)

OEP Open Enrollment Period

PACE Programs of All-Inclusive Care
for the Elderly

PDP Prescription Drug Plan

PFFS Private Fee-for-Service

POS Point of Service

PPO Preferred Provider Organization

QDWI Qualifying Disabled & Working
Individuals

QHP Qualified Health Plan

QI Qualified Individual

QMB Qualified Medicare Beneficiary

RRB Railroad Retirement Board

SEP Special Enrollment Period

SHIP State Health Insurance Assistance
Program

SLMB Specified Low-income Medicare
Beneficiary

SNF Skilled Nursing Facility

SNP Special Needs Plan

SSA Social Security Administration

SSDI Social Security Disability
Insurance

TFL TRICARE for Life

TTY Teletypewriter/Text Telephone

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VSMI Variable Supplementary Medical
Insurance

This Training is Provided by the

CMS National Training Program (NTP)

To view all available NTP training materials,
or to subscribe to our email list, visit
CMSnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov.

Stay connected.

Contact us at training@cms.hhs.gov, or
follow us  @CMSGov #CMSNTP