

MEDICARE BASICS AND YOUR CHOICES

WHAT IS MEDICARE?

Medicare is health insurance for the following:

- ◆ People 65 or older
- ◆ People under 65 with certain disabilities
- ◆ People of any age with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant)

THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF MEDICARE

The different parts of Medicare help cover specific services:

Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance)

- ◆ Helps cover inpatient care in hospitals
- ◆ Helps cover skilled nursing facility, hospice and home health care

Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance)

- ◆ Helps cover doctors' and other health care providers; services, outpatient care, durable medical equipment, and home health care
- ◆ Helps cover some preventive services to help maintain your health and to keep certain illnesses from getting worse

Medicare Part C (Also known as Medicare Advantage)

Offers health plan options run by Medicare –approved private insurance companies. Medicare Advantage Plans are a way to get the benefits and services covered under Part A and Part B. Most Medicare Advantage Plans cover Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D). Some Medicare Advantage Plans may include extra benefits for an extra cost.

Medicare Part C (Also known as Medicare Advantage)

- ◆ Helps cover the cost of prescription drugs
- ◆ May help lower your prescription drug costs and help protect against higher costs
- ◆ Run by Medicare-approved private insurance companies

Medicare Supplement (Also known as “Medigap”)

- ◆ Helps **reduce or eliminate** money paid out-of-pocket for care received (**deductibles, co-pays, and coinsurance**)
- ◆ **Standardized plans** that are identified by letters — A-N
- ◆ Are only offered through private insurance companies

Your Medicare Coverage Choices at a Glance

There are two main ways to get your Medicare coverage: Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan. Use these steps to help you decide which way to get your coverage.

