

# What's New with Medicare in 2024



Information as of October 30, 2023

*SHIP is administered by the NJ Department of Human Services under a federal grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living.*

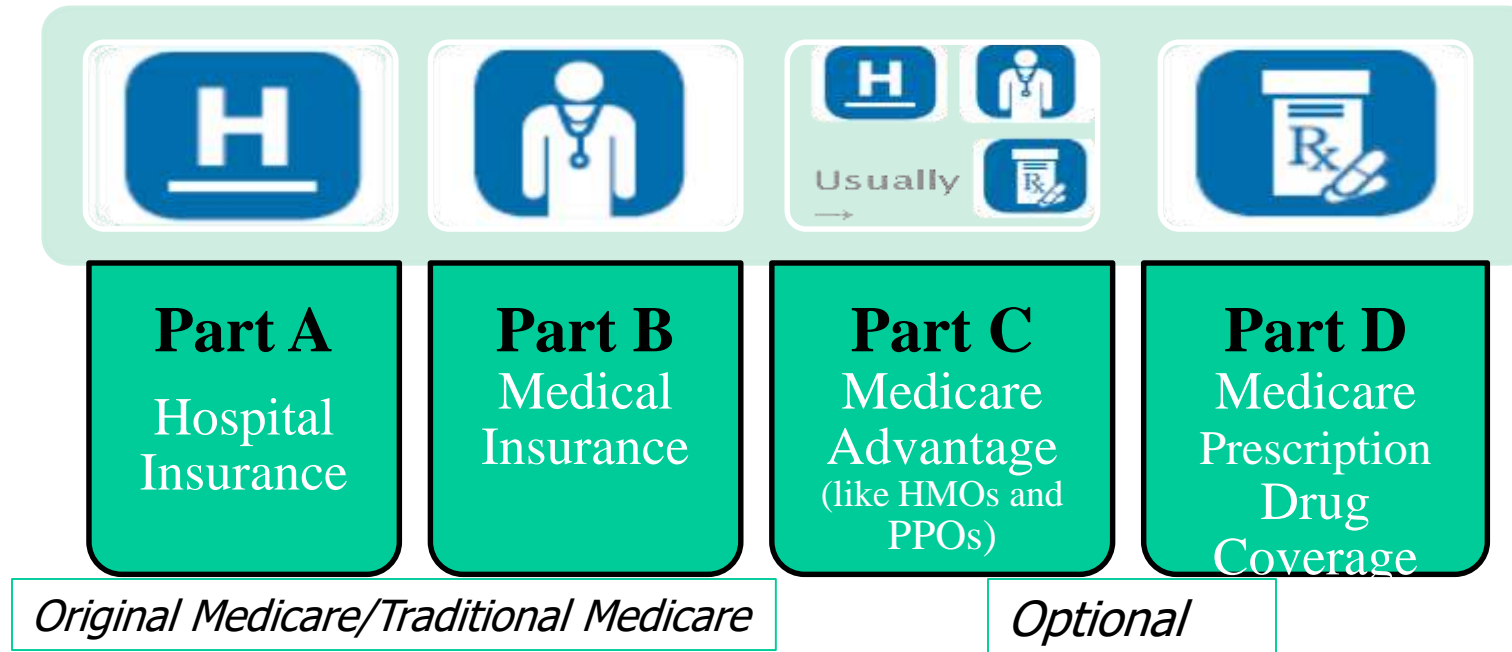
# Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment

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- COLA for 2024 will be **3.2%** increase in benefits
- Average Retirement benefit amount will increase **\$50** per month



# Review of Basics: Medicare has Four Parts



Each part of Medicare has different:

- ✓ Rules for enrollment
- ✓ Monthly premiums
- ✓ Deductibles
- ✓ Cost sharing for services (coinsurance and copays)

# 2024 Original Medicare : Your Part B Costs

- **Premium: \$174.70** /month for most beneficiaries (\$164.90 in 2023)
- **Annual Deductible \$ 240** ( was \$226 in 2023)
- **Coinsurance:**
  - **20%** for most Part B services
- **Excess Charge** – additional 15% coinsurance for providers who do not accept Medicare allowed amount as payment in full (assignment)

## NOTE:

If you have **Medicare Supplement Policy (Medigap)** or have retiree health benefits from former employer, usually covers some or all of Medicare Part A and Part B cost sharing.

# 2024 Medicare Part B Premiums

If Your Yearly Modified Adjusted Gross Income in 2022 was		Premium you paid for Part B in 2023	Premium you pay per month for Part B in <b>2024</b>
File Individual Tax Return	File Joint Tax Return		
<b>\$103,000 or less</b>	<b>\$206,000 or less</b>	\$164.90	<b>\$174.70</b>
<b>\$103,001 - \$129,000</b>	<b>\$206,001 - \$258,000</b>	\$230.80	<b>\$244.60</b>
<b>\$129,001 - \$161,000</b>	<b>\$258,001 - \$322,000</b>	\$329.70	<b>\$349.40</b>
<b>\$161,001 - \$193,000</b>	<b>\$322,001 - \$386,000</b>	\$428.60	<b>\$454.20</b>
<b>\$193,001 - \$500,000</b>	<b>\$386,001 - \$750,000</b>	\$527.50	<b>\$559</b>
<b>Above \$500,000</b>	<b>Above \$750,000</b>	\$560.50	<b>\$594</b>

**IRMAA- Income-related Monthly Adjustment Amount**

# COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Medicare

## And COVID Boosters



**What does it cost?** You pay nothing for the vaccine!



**Where do I get it?** COVID-19 vaccines are available at pharmacies, clinics, doctors' offices, hospitals, or even in the home. Find a vaccine near you at [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).



**What do I bring?** Bring your red, white, and blue Medicare card to your appointment, even if you have a Medicare Advantage Plan. Otherwise, you may be asked for your Social Security number to verify you're on Medicare.



**I'm already vaccinated. Do I need a booster?** If you are age 65 and older or have certain health risks, a booster may be recommended. Speak with your doctor to learn more.

# COVID-19 Testing

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- Covered under Part B as clinical laboratory test
  - No cost-sharing
  - Applies to Original Medicare and MA Plans
- First test is covered without a prescription
  - ✦ **Subsequent testing requires a prescription**
- Medicare covers COVID antibody tests, and antibody treatments.
- Medicare **no longer covers** at-home rapid Covid tests purchased over-the-counter at local participating pharmacies. Get free tests at [www.Covid.gov](http://www.Covid.gov)

# COVID Treatment

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- Covered by Medicare A and B or your Medicare Advantage Plan
  - Regular cost-sharing applies for Part A and B services
  - Medicare Advantage plans may waive cost-sharing for COVID-19 treatments per CMS guidance



# Annual Enrollment for People with Medicare

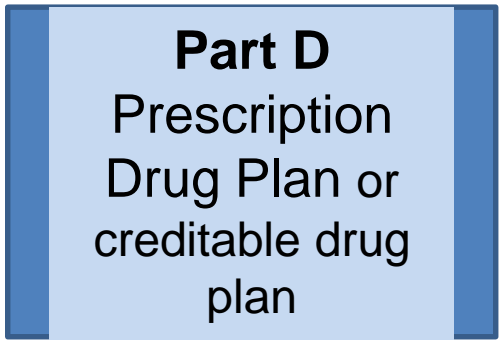
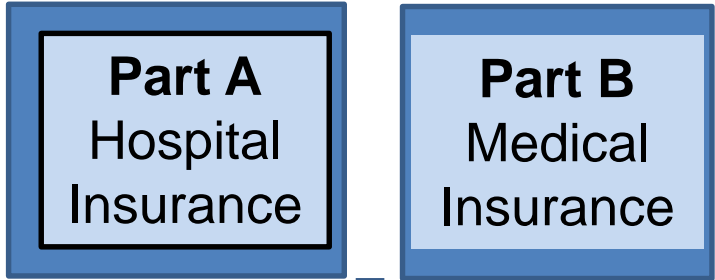
- From **October 15** to **December 7** you can
  - ✓ Join or switch a **Medicare Prescription Drug Plan**
  - ✓ Join or switch a **Medicare Advantage Plan**
- Time to **shop & compare** health and drug plan choices
  - ✓ Is your current plan still best one for you (*best **costs** and **coverage***)
  - ✓ Choose the plan that fits your needs
- Coverage begins on January 1, 2024
  - ✓ You'll have membership card/materials in hand



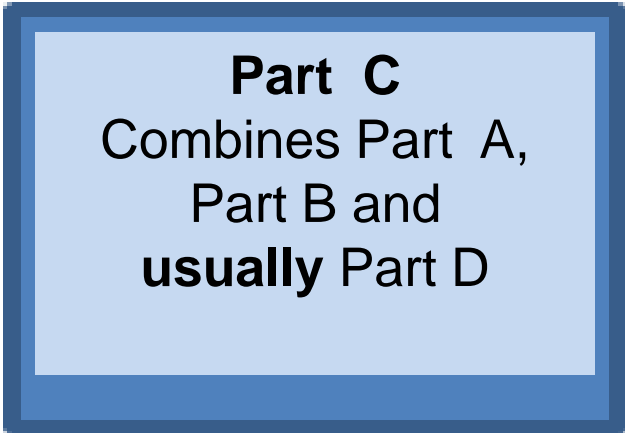
**NOTE:** You are locked into your Part D plan for all of 2024 once Open Enrollment Period ends. (*some exceptions*)

# Review: Your Medicare Coverage Choices

## Original Medicare



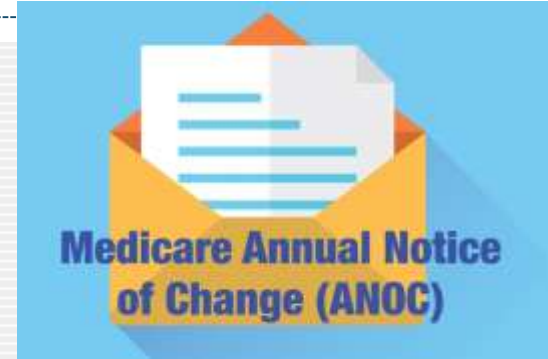
## Medicare Advantage Plan (HMO or PPO)



# What if I am happy with my current drug plan?

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- Read how your plan will change for 2024
  - Plan still offered next year?
  - Premium amount changing?
  - Deductible amount changing?
  - Coverage for your medications- still on the plan formulary?
  - Copays for your medications?
- Compare your plan with other plans available.
  - May be able to find a cheaper plan to save money.
- If decide to stay with current plan, no action needed. Will be automatically re-enrolled for 2024



# NJ Medicare Drug Plans 2024



- **21** drug plans available
- **Elixir Rx Secure Plan ending:** Members will need to enroll in another Part D plan.
- Many plans with significant premium increase:
  - AARP Walgreens Plan from UHC from \$28.20 to **\$54.20**
  - AARP Saver Plus Plan from UHC from \$36.10 to **\$68.40**
  - Cigna Secure from \$34.20 to **\$60.60**
  - Humana Basic from \$37 to **\$58.50**
- Lowest Premiums:
  - **Wellcare Value Script - \$0**
  - **SilverScript Smart Saver Rx - \$12.40**
  - **Cigna Saver Rx - \$16.80**
- **Clear Spring Health Value Rx**- Low Performance Rating



# WHO PAYS WHAT UNDER PART D IN 2024



**DEDUCTIBLE**      Up to **\$545**

**INITIAL COVERAGE**

25%	of drug costs
75%	of drug costs

Up to \$5,030 in drug cost received.

**COVERAGE GAP ("Donut Hole")**

**GENERICS**

25%	
75%	

Until Total out of pocket costs hit \$8,000 for the year.

**BRAND-NAME DRUGS**

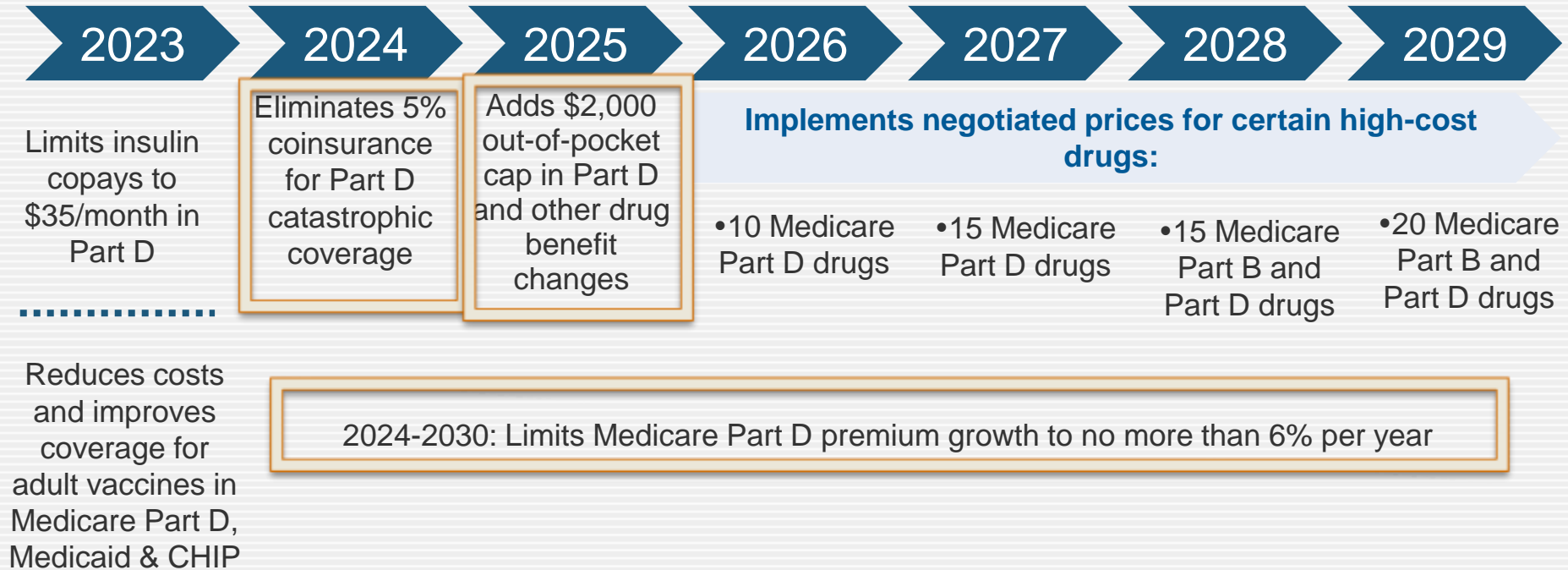
25%	
5%	
70%	

These payments from drug company counts towards your \$8000 out of pocket!

**CATASTROPHIC BENEFIT PERIOD** (beneficiary's)

\$0 cost share for all covered drugs	<b>NEW FOR 2024</b>
15%	
85%	

# Implementation Timeline of the Prescription Drug Provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation



# \$35 cap on Insulin copay

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- Started 1/1/2023, insulin covered by Medicare plans cannot have copay higher than \$35 per month for EACH insulin
  - No deductible, No Coverage Gap
- All Medicare drug and health plans can choose which insulins to cover on their drug list (formulary)
  - Need to enroll in plan that has your insulin covered.
  - Need to use your plan's in-network local pharmacy or mail order.
  - Cap does NOT apply to disposable insulin pump (ex Omnipod) or to non-insulin diabetic drugs such as Ozempic, or Januvia

# \$0 Cost for Medicare Covered Vaccines

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- Part D-covered adult vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) will be covered by Medicare Part D at 100%.
  - Includes vaccines for shingles (**Shingrix**)
  - and Tetanus-Diphtheria-Whooping Cough
  - **New vaccine for RSV also covered**
- **ALL Medicare drug and health plans MUST cover these vaccines on their plan formulary.**



# Medicare Plan Finder at medicare.gov

It's Open Enrollment - now to Dec 7

Find Plans

## Welcome to Medicare

Get Started with Medicare

**Log in or create an account**  
Access your information anytime, anywhere  
Log in/Create Account

**Find health & drug plans**  
Find & compare plans in your area  
Find Plans Now

**Find care providers**  
Compare hospitals, nursing homes, & more  
Find Providers Near Me

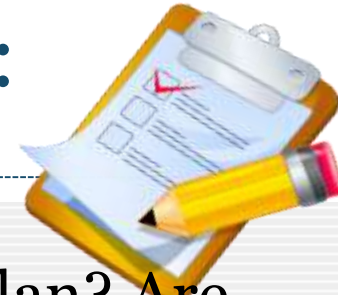
**Talk to someone**  
Contact Medicare & other helpful resources  
Get Help

# Create a Medicare Account

- Go to [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov)
- After creating an account, will be able to see all your Medicare Claims for Parts A and B (hospital and medical)
- List of your medications already uploaded if you have a Medicare Part D plan.
- How to video found on You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6imlBKikSg&feature=youtu.be>



# How To Compare Plans:



- **Coverage:** Are my drugs covered by the Plan? Are there any restrictions (*prior authorization, step therapy*)?
- **Costs:** Look at premium, copays, deductibles. Compare “*total yearly drug + premium cost*”.
  - Remember to NOT include costs for insulin or vaccines based on prices shown on the Plan Finder.
- **Convenience:** Is my pharmacy in plan’s network? Offer mail order? Have preferred pharmacy with lower copays?
- **Coordination:** Will it work with my other health or drug benefits?

# Sample Page on Medicare Plan Finder



## Plan Details Page:

ESTIMATED TOTAL DRUG + PREMIUM COST	
	CVS Pharmacy #00824 <b>Preferred</b> Preferred in-network pharmacy
Total yearly drug + premium cost	\$1,508.19
When you'll meet your deductible	January 2024
When you'll enter the coverage gap ▾	September 2024
When you'll get out of the coverage gap	You won't get out of the coverage gap in 2024

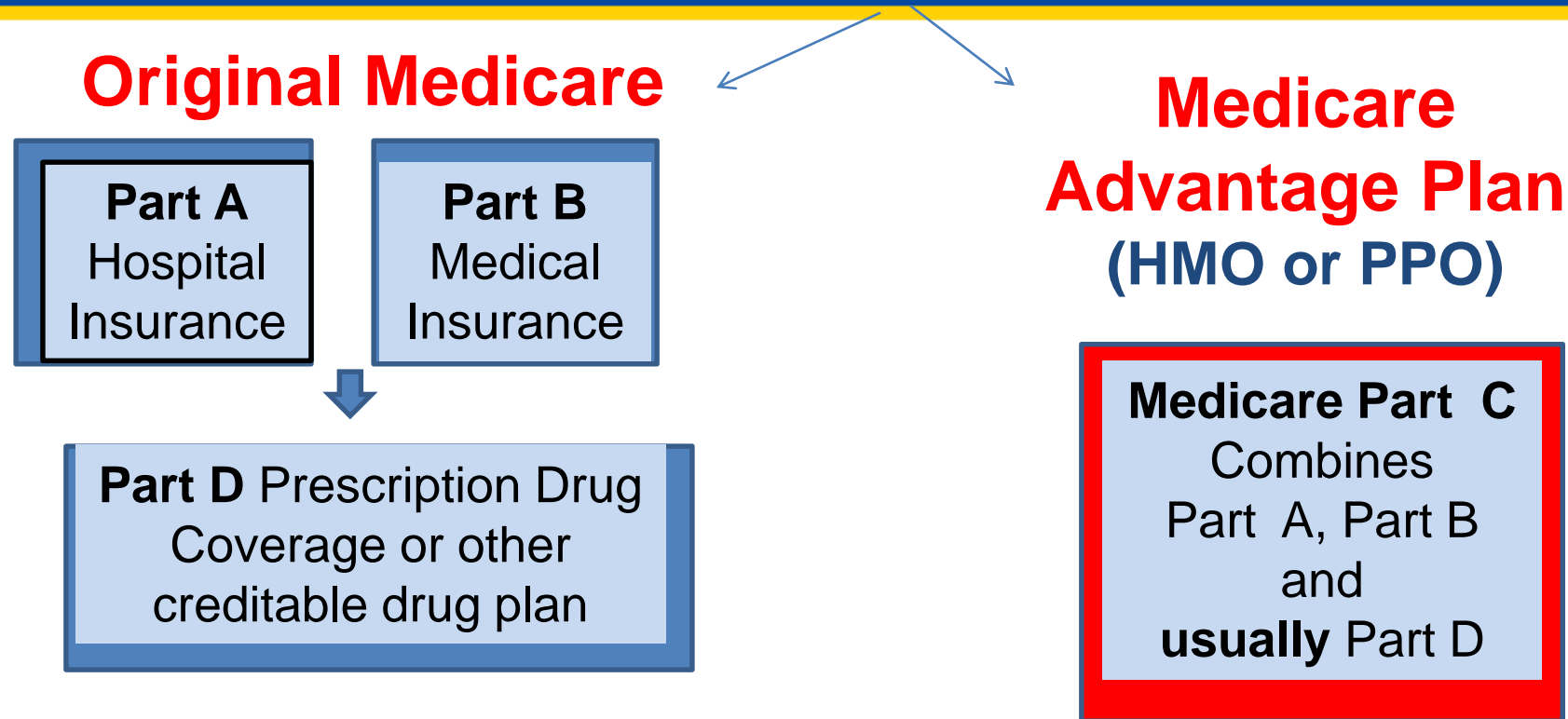
# What if your prescription is not covered by the plan you choose?



**Once open enrollment is over, you are locked into your plan for the year.**

1. You and your doctor should work with the plan
  - **Switch** to similar drug that is on the formulary
2. If you cannot switch drugs:
  - Your doctor can request an **Exception** to have it covered
  - If plan denies your exception request can **Appeal**
3. Change to Plan that covers your drug during next Annual Enrollment or special enrollment

# Your Medicare Choices





# TV Ads offering “extra benefits” in Medicare



**Ads will link you to insurance agents selling Medicare Advantage Plans**

# What is Medicare Advantage?

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- Structured as HMOs or PPOs
- Insurance companies contract with Medicare to provide your benefits
- You must get all medical services and drugs through the plan
  - ✦ May have to use specific doctors, hospitals and labs
  - ✦ May need referrals for services and specialists
- May get **extra benefits** not covered by Original Medicare
  - eyeglasses, hearing aids, dental services, gym discounts
- NOT supplements to Medicare
  - ✦ No claims go to Medicare, all claims processed by plan



# Medicare Advantage Overview



- Plans offered differ by county-
- **Premiums** range from \$0 to \$120 per month
  - Many plans have \$0 premium
  - some plans also offer reduction in member's Part B premium
  - *If plan has premium of close to \$100, better to look at different Medicare plan or consider a Medigap Policy*
- Some plans have **deductible** before plan will pay
- Plans charge you **copay** every time you use a service
  - until you reach your **maximum out of pocket** (usually \$8,000 - \$11,000), then plan covers 100%



## Sample of “Supplemental” or “Extra” benefits offered by some Medicare Advantage plans:

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- **Dental benefits**- some only “routine/preventive” some cover comprehensive up to dollar cap
- **Home-delivered meals** after hospital stay
- \$100 to \$400 **spending card** to be used to purchase over-the-counter health related items *such as adult diapers, shower chairs, cold medicine*
- **Transportation** to medical appointments
- **World-wide coverage** for medical emergencies
- “**Travel benefit**”- use providers in other states
- **Cash rewards for getting “wellness” services** like flu shots and mammograms



Check each Plan’s ***Summary of Benefits*** for details.



# Some Plans Not Renewing. Plan ends 12/31/2023

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**All members need to take action by 12/31 to enroll in another plan!**

- **Amerivantage Choice and some other Amerivantage plans**
- **Braven Medicare Plus**



# Your rights if your plan ending.

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- If take no action, you will Traditional Medicare Part A and B, but have no drug coverage on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Have extended open enrollment until 2/28/2024 to enroll in another Part D or Medicare Advantage Plan
- If MA plan is ending, you can return to Original Medicare and have Guaranteed Issue until March 2, 2024 to purchase a medigap policy and not be turned down.

# Questions to ask before enrolling in MA Plan

- Are my doctors and hospitals in the network?
- What are copays/coinsurance for each service?
  - Doctor visits , outpatient procedures
  - Specialists, physical therapy, medical tests
  - Hospital stays, medical equipment
- Out of network coverage and costs?
- Referrals required?
- Are my drugs covered?
  - ***CANNOT ENROLL IN SEPARATE MEDICARE PART D PLAN WHEN ENROLLED IN MA PLAN***
- Will it affect my employer or union coverage?
- Details on eyeglass and dental coverage?
- What if I travel out of state?



# How to Join a New Plan

Enroll in a Medicare Health or Prescription Drug Plan by

- Enrolling on the Medicare website [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
  - Calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
  - Calling the Plan
- **Enrolling in a new plan will disenroll you from your previous drug or health plan**
  - If you have other coverage, like from an employer or union



Check with your plan's benefits administrator before making any changes to your coverage

# Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period



What if you don't like your Medicare Advantage Plan?

- From **January 1** to **March 31** you can
  - ✓ **Switch** Medicare Advantage Plans or
  - ✓ **Leave** Medicare Advantage and return to Original Medicare with a Part D Drug Plan

# Can I switch from a Medicare Advantage Plan to Medigap?

Only if the following applies:

1. You are in a Medicare Open Enrollment Period; AND
  - October 15 – December 7
  - January 1 – March 31
2. You are in good health OR
3. You are in “Special Enrollment Period”
  - Lost other coverage
  - Moved outside service area of your Medicare Advantage Plan

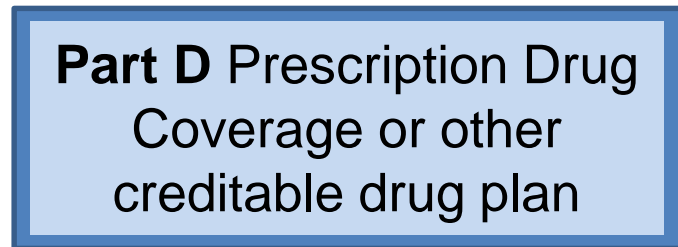
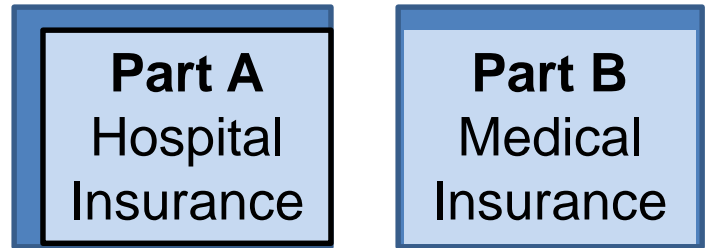


# Medicare Advantage “No Risk” Trial Situations

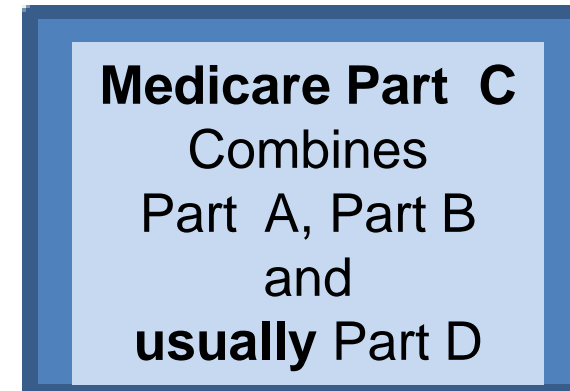
- ✓ If you cancel a Medicare Supplement policy 12/31/23 to enroll into a 2024 Medicare Advantage plan for the first time.
  - *You have one year “trial” and any time during 2024 you can:*
    - Disenroll from MA plan and return to Original Medicare; and
    - Enroll in a Part D Drug plan; and
    - Can purchase a Medicare supplement policy and not be turned down.
      - Get back the medigap policy you had in 2023
      - If that plan no longer sold, can purchase certain medigaps from any company

# Your Medicare Choices

## Original Medicare



## Medicare Advantage Plan (HMO or PPO)



# If stay with Original Medicare, and want a Medigap Policy

- Policies sold by insurance companies
- Cover “cost sharing” in Original Medicare Plan:
  - Part A & B Deductibles, Co-pays, Coinsurance
- Also called “**Medicare Supplement Insurance**”
- 10 Standardized Policies Available
  - Labeled Plan A thru N
  - Plans of same letter have same coverage
  - Only premium costs are different
- **Can go to any doctor, hospital, or provider that accepts Medicare in any state**

# How Medigap Policies Work

- You pay monthly premium for Medigap in addition to Medicare Part B premium
  - \$100 -\$300 per month based on plan and age
- Medigap pays claim after Medicare pays
- Only covers Medicare services
- **Company can turn you down for coverage after your first six months with Part B**
- Does NOT cover prescription drugs, need separate Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan
- Premiums increase with age, and increase any time of year with state approval
- Can keep the policy if you move anywhere in the U.S.

# Medigap Policies

Covered by the Policy:	Plan <b>A</b>	Plan <b>B</b>	Plan <b>D</b>	High Deduct <b>G*</b>	Plan <b>G</b>	Plan <b>K**</b>	Plan <b>L**</b>	Plan <b>M</b>	Plan <b>N</b>
<b>MEDICARE PART A COSTS</b>									
<b>Hospital Deductible</b>		★	★	★	★	50%	75%	50%	★
<b>Hospital Copayment</b>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
<b>Skilled Nursing Facility Copay</b>			★	★	★	50%	75%	★	★
<b>Hospice Care</b>	★	★	★	★	★	50%	75%	★	★
<b>MEDICARE PART B COSTS</b>									
<b>Part B Annual Deductible</b>									
<b>Part B Coinsurance</b>	★	★	★	★	★	50%	75%	★	\$20 copay for doctor visits and \$50 copay for ER visits
<b>Part B Excess/Limiting Charges</b>				★	★				
<b>OTHER</b>									
<b>First three pints of blood.</b>	★	★	★	★	★	50%	75%	★	★
<b>Foreign Travel Emergency</b>			★	★	★			★	★

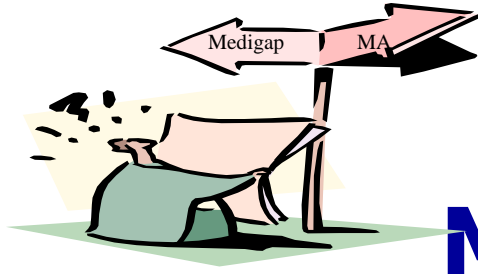
\* **Plan G High Deductible:** In 2024, policy holder pays \$2,800 before the policy pays any claims.

\*\***Plans K and L** pay percentage of Part A and Part B cost sharing until you spend a certain amount out-of-pocket.  
The 2023 out-of-pocket maximum is \$7,060 for Plan K and \$3,530 for Plan L.

# Where to get Medigap Information

- Call 1-800-Medicare and ask for free publication *“Choosing a Medigap Policy”*
- Call companies selling Medigaps for premium quote
- Charts available from NJ SHIP
  - 1-800-792-8820 or [www.aging.nj.gov](http://www.aging.nj.gov)
- If age 65+ can apply at **anytime**,
- Not limited to Medicare Annual Enrollment Period





# Should I choose Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage Plan?

Stay with Original Medicare if...

- You have health coverage from former employer or union and want to keep it
- You are “snow bird” or travel long periods outside NJ
- You want freedom to go to any Medicare doctor anywhere in the U.S.

## Example #1:

### Mrs. Healthy' s costs with Medigap vs. Medicare Advantage Plan

Expense	Medicare Advantage Plan	Medigap Plan G
Part B Premium	\$175 x 12= \$2,100	\$175 x12= \$2,100
Plan Premium	\$0	\$135 x 12 = \$1,620
Part B Deductible	\$0	\$240
Primary Doctor Visit	2 @ \$20 = \$40	\$0
Specialist Visit	2 @ \$50 = \$100	\$0
Outpatient surgery	\$125	\$0
Monthly diabetic supplies	20% of \$100 x 12 = \$240	\$0
Routine dental	\$0	\$150 x 2 = \$300
Eyeglasses	\$100	\$500
Blood work	\$13	\$0
<b>TOTAL FOR YEAR</b>	<b>\$2,718</b>	<b>\$4,760</b>



## Example #2:

### Mr. Sick's costs with Medigap vs. Medicare Advantage Plan

Expense	Medicare Advantage Plan	Medigap Plan G
Part B Premium	$\$175 \times 12 = \$2,100$	$\$175 \times 12 = \$2,100$
Plan Premium	\$0	$\$160 \times 12 = \$1,920$
Part B Deductible	\$0	\$240
Primary Doctor Visit	$6 @ \$20 = \$120$	\$0
Specialist Visit	$12 @ \$50 = \$600$	\$0
MRI outpatient	\$125	\$0
Monthly DME	$20\% \text{ of } \$100 \times 12 = \$240$	\$0
2 Hospital Stays 5 days	$\$295 \times 10 = \$2,950$	\$0
Nursing home rehab	$\$125 \times 10 = \$1,250$	\$0
Blood work	$\$13 \times 4 = \$52$	\$0
Ambulance	\$250	\$0
ER visit	\$90	\$0
Outpatient surgery	$20\% \text{ of } \$2000 = \$400$	\$0
Physical Therapy	$\$50 \times 11 = \$550$	\$0
Eyeglasses	\$100	\$500
Routine dental	\$0	$\$150 \times 2 = \$300$
<b>TOTAL FOR YEAR</b>	<b>\$8,827</b>	<b>\$5,060</b>

# Programs to help with Medicare Costs

1. Medicaid
2. Medicare Savings Programs
3. NJ PAAD
4. NJ Senior Gold Drug Discount



# NJ Family Care Medicaid Program



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- Who is eligible? (2023 rates)
  - Monthly income less than **\$1,215 (single), \$1,644 (married)**
  - Assets less than \$4,000 (single) , \$6,000 (married)
    - ✦ Does not include value of your home or car
- Medicaid pays all your Medicare costs:
  - all Part A and B items
    - ✦ premiums, deductibles
    - ✦ coinsurance for hospital, doctors, tests
  - Lowers Prescription copay to \$1.55 or \$4.60 in 2024
- Medicare pays first, Medicaid HMO pays second
- Apply at County Board of Social Services



# Help Paying Part B Premium- Medicare Savings Programs

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- Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary  
**SLMB** and **Qualified Individual**
- Who is eligible in 2023?
  - Monthly income less than  
**\$1,641 (single) , \$2,219 if married**
  - Resources less than \$9,090 (single), \$13,630 (married)
- If you qualify for SLMB or QI, you will net additional \$165/month in your Social Security check
- Apply at 1-800-792-9745 or  
**[www.aging.nj.gov](http://www.aging.nj.gov)**



# NJ's Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled Program (PAAD)

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- Must meet 2024 income limits
  - single: less than **\$52,142 /yr** (about \$4,345/mth)
  - married: less than **\$59,209/yr** (about \$4,934/mth) PAAD members pay no more than
    - \$5 for generic drugs**
    - \$7 for brand name drugs**
- PAAD pays premium for Part D plan
- No Part D deductible, copay, or donut hole
- Apply at 1-800-792-9745 or **[www.aging.nj.gov](http://www.aging.nj.gov)**

The logo for NJSave, featuring the word "NJSave" in a bold, green, sans-serif font inside a thin green rectangular border.

APPLY ONLINE

# NJ Senior Gold Prescription Discount

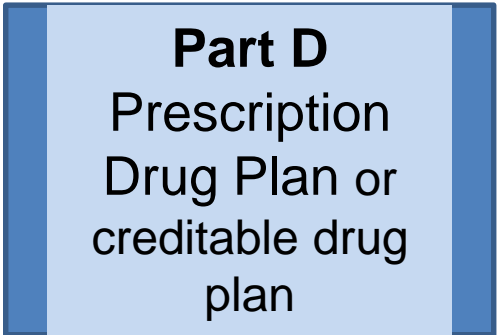
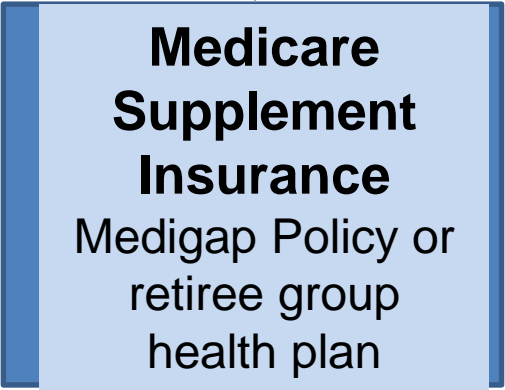
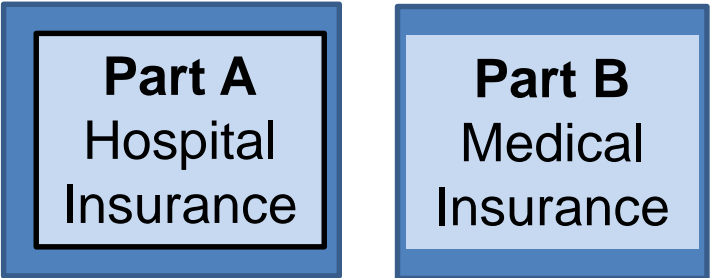
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- Sr. Gold income eligibility higher than for PAAD
- Income Limits 2024:
  - single: less than **\$62,142/yr** (about \$5,178/mth)
  - married: less than **\$69,209/yr** (about \$5,767/mth)
- You pay \$15 plus 50% of remaining cost for each drug
- You must be enrolled in Part D drug plan
- Senior Gold does NOT pay Part D premium
- Apply at 1-800-792-9745 or **[www.aging.nj.gov](http://www.aging.nj.gov)**

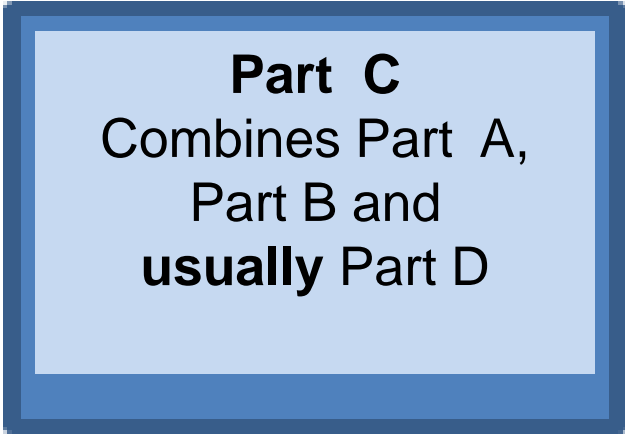


# Review: Your Medicare Coverage Choices

## Original Medicare



## Medicare Advantage Plan (HMO or PPO)





- **Medicare will NOT call you** and ask for your bank information or Social Security number
- **Protect your Medicare number** same as you would your credit card
- **Medicare will NOT send representatives** to your home--- these are insurance agents trying to sell you health care policies.



# Where to Get Help

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- **Medicare.gov**
- **Contact the Plan**
- **Call 1-800-Medicare**
- **www.aging.nj.gov**
  - Click “Medicare Options” link in blue box
- **Call Medicare Information Line**
  - **NJ SHIP 1-800-792-8820**



Thank you for joining us today.

