

## Call us

Alaska's Medicare Information Office answers your questions about all aspects of Medicare.

In Alaska: **800-478-6065**

In Anchorage: **907-269-3680**

**Call us any time.**

If we can't take your call right away, leave us a message and we'll call you back. Either the Anchorage office staff will help you, or there may be a counselor in your community who can help you in person.

## VOLUNTEER

Can you help out during weekdays?

Are you interested in helping your fellow Alaskans?

The Medicare Information Office can train you to help people:

- Find the best Medicare plans
- Understand billing statements
- Protect Medicare benefits by preventing fraud, waste and abuse

## Help with costs

You may be eligible for programs to help pay for prescriptions and for the monthly Part B premium. For people with limited incomes, Medicare can cover up to 75 percent of medication costs.

It doesn't hurt to ask – call us and we'll help you apply or go online to:

[www.alaska.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.alaska.benefitscheckup.org)

**Our services are free.**  
**Donations are welcome at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center for its Medicare Counseling site.**

**Medicare Information Office**

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[hss.medicare@alaska.gov](mailto:hss.medicare@alaska.gov)



State of Alaska  
Department of Health  
Division of  
Senior and Disabilities Services  
Anchorage, Alaska



[www.medicare.alaska.gov](http://www.medicare.alaska.gov)

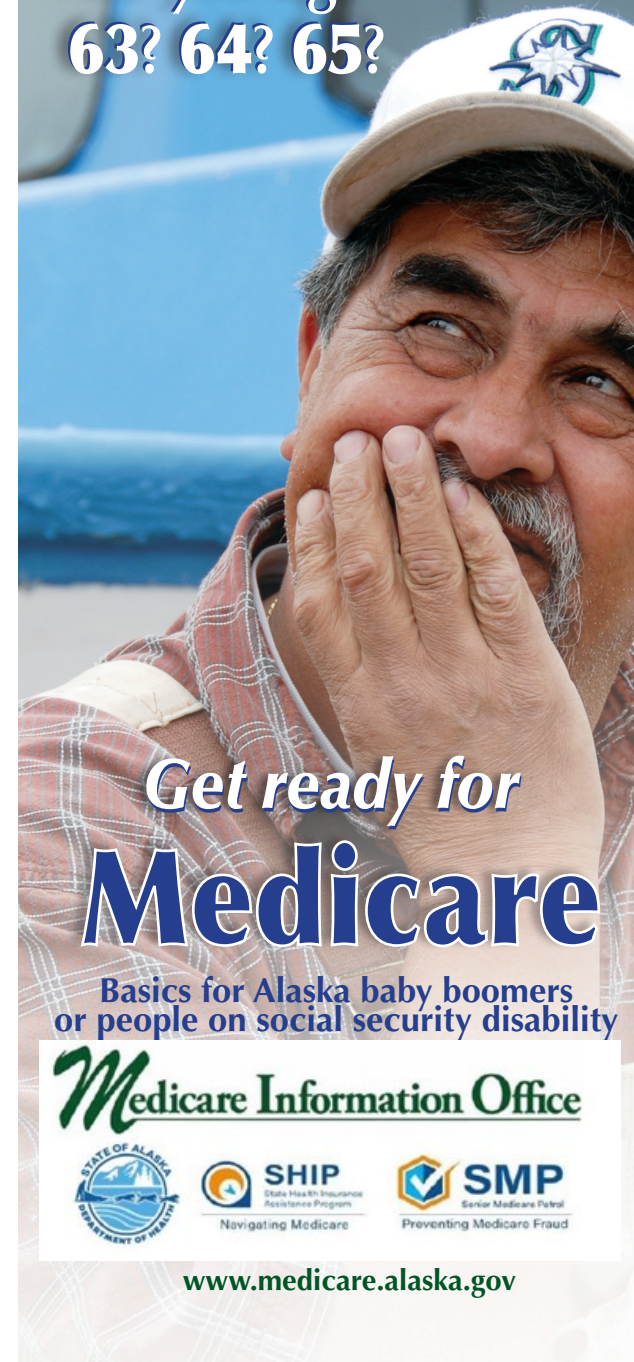
### Medicare.gov

The official U.S. government site for Medicare:

- find out what benefits Medicare covers
- get the latest **Medicare & You** handbook
- find dozens of Medicare-specific publications
- compare drug plans and health plans
- find Medicare-approved doctors and suppliers ... and much, much more.

## MEDICARE

Are you age  
**63? 64? 65?**



Get ready for  
**Medicare**

Basics for Alaska baby boomers  
or people on social security disability

**Medicare Information Office**



[www.medicare.alaska.gov](http://www.medicare.alaska.gov)

# What is Medicare?

Medicare is health insurance for people who are age 65 and older, under age 65 with disabilities, or any age with end-stage renal disease or Lou Gehrig's disease.

## Medicare has several parts:

**Part A** (Hospital Insurance) covers hospital stays, some care in skilled nursing facilities, some home care and hospice.

**Part B** (Medical Insurance) covers medically necessary services like doctors' visits, preventive services, and medical equipment.

**Part C** (Medicare Advantage) fee-for-service, HMO/PPOs providing Parts A, B and D.

**Part D** (Medicare Prescription Drug Plan) offers prescription drug coverage to everyone with Medicare.

**Medicare Supplement Insurance** (Medigap) is private insurance with policies that help cover some of the costs for Part A and B services after Medicare pays.



# When to sign up

## Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)

**Parts A & B & D:** When you turn 65, you have a seven-month initial enrollment period: the three months before your birthday month, your birthday month, and the three months after (*not everyone needs Part D*).

## Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

If you or your spouse work past age 65 and have insurance through that employment, you can delay enrolling in part A and/or B. You can sign up while still working or during the 8-month period that begins the month after the employment or the group health plan coverage ends, whichever is first.

## General Enrollment Period (GEP)

If you miss your initial enrollment period and don't have a special enrollment period, your next chance to enroll in Medicare Part A & B is between January 1-March 31. (*You may be penalized for late enrollment.*)

## Do I have to sign up for Medicare?

Most retiree plans such as **TRICARE for Life** or **AlaskaCare** require Medicare A & B enrollment at 65 because Medicare becomes the primary payer.

Federal retirees, veterans and tribal beneficiaries may have options. Check your benefits booklet or office.

# How to sign up

## Medicare Parts A & B, apply through Social Security

- **online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)**

OR

- **by national phone line**

Speak to a Social Security representative **8 a.m - 7 p.m.** Monday through Friday.

**800-772-1213** toll-free

TTY users call 800-325-0778

OR

- **at your local office:**

**Social Security Anchorage Office**

866-772-3081 toll-free

**Social Security Fairbanks Office**

800-478-0391 toll-free

**Social Security Juneau Office**

800-478-7124 toll-free

## Medicare Part D or other plans

We can help you find the most cost effective prescription drug coverage.

**Call us! 907-269-3680 or 800-478-6065**

OR use the drug plan comparison tool. at **[www.medicare.gov/plan-compare](http://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare)**

You will need your red, white and blue Medicare card and a list of your medications with dosage and quantity.