

# MEDICARE 101

Presented by:

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Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon

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## **TODAY'S PRESENTATION**

- An overview of Medicare and your options
- How Medicare works









Regence is dedicated to helping our neighbors in Oregon understand their Medicare options. Thank you for spending time with us today.

## WHAT IS MEDICARE?



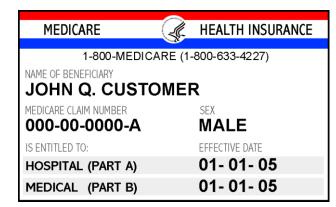
#### Medicare has four parts: A, B, C and D

Medicare is divided into four different parts:

- Part A Hospital Insurance
- Part B Medical Insurance



#### "Original Medicare"



- Part C Medicare Advantage Plans
- Part D Prescription Drug Coverage



## **Eligibility**

#### People who are at least 65 years of age, and:

- Have worked 10 or more years in Medicare-covered employment, and paid (or a spouse paid) Social Security for at least ten years
- Are citizens of the United States

#### People who are under 65 and disabled:

- Have been receiving 24 months of Social Security Disability income
- (or) Have been diagnosed with ESRD or ALS

If you have questions about your eligibility, call 1-800-MEDICARE.



## **HOW TO SIGN UP FOR MEDICARE**

## **Enrolling – Original Medicare Part A & B**



Parts A & B can begin as soon as the first day of the month you turn 65.



#### When to Enroll – Enrollment Periods

#### Initial Enrollment Period (IEP):

- Seven-month window
- Begins three months before your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday month, the month of your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, and three months after your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday month

#### **Birthday Month**

Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	1 P. Do	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7
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#### **Enrollment Periods cont.**

"I'm still working, have group coverage through my employer, and do not intend to retire when I turn 65."

Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

During the 8-month period that begins the month after your

employment ends (retire)

#### General Enrollment Period (GEP):

- Jan. 1 March 31, for a July 1 effective date
- A late enrollment penalty may apply



# "What if I already receive Social Security and am turning 65?"

- Enrollment in Parts A & B are automatic
- If you decline Part B and send back your Medicare card:
  - 10% penalty for each year you delay applying
  - May avoid penalty if you or your spouse is actively working AND you are covered by that group health insurance

#### **Note on Enrollment**

Take special note of your health insurance coverage status as you approach 65. There are several instances where people often make mistakes and end up paying fines. These include:

- Not having sufficient "creditable" drug-coverage
- Not signing up in time



## **ORIGINAL MEDICARE – HOW IT WORKS**

## Part A – Hospital Insurance

#### What it *Helps* Cover:

- Inpatient care in hospitals
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Hospice care
- Home health care services







There is no cost for Part A if you or your spouse paid into Social Security for ten years.





## Part A – Your Responsibility

Part A does not cover all inpatient expenses. You will be responsible for paying for some costs before your benefits apply (your deductible) and for a certain amount of costs after the deductible is met.

#### 2016 PART A COST-SHARING

- \$1,288 deductible (each benefit period)
- \$322 co-pay (per day) days 61 90 at the hospital
- \$644 co-pay (per day) days 90 150 at the hospital



#### Part B - Medical Insurance

#### What it *Helps* Cover:

- Services from doctors and other health care providers
- Outpatient care
- Home health care
- Durable medical equipment
- Some preventive services









#### **2015 BENEFITS**

Monthly premium: \$121.80

Deductible: \$166

Cost Sharing: \$20%, varies



## Part B – Your Responsibility

- Monthly premium
- Paying some costs out of pocket until you meet your deductible
- Some cost sharing for the doctor's visits and medical services you receive (your coinsurance) – mostly 20% of all costs after your deductible is met

# Examples of what you will pay with only Original Medicare (Part A and B only)

Type of Care	You Pay				
1 day Hospital stay	\$1,288 – Part A deductible				
150 consecutive day stay in a Hospital	\$48,300				
100 consecutive day stay in a Skilled Nursing Facility	\$12,880				
Doctor visits and outpatient surgeries	\$166 Part B deductible plus 20% coinsurance of everything else				

There's no yearly limit for what you pay out-of-pocket



## Original Medicare does not cover everything



#### **Examples of services NOT covered:**

- Most prescription drugs
- Custodial care at home
- Most chiropractic services
- Care outside the U.S.
- Hearing aids

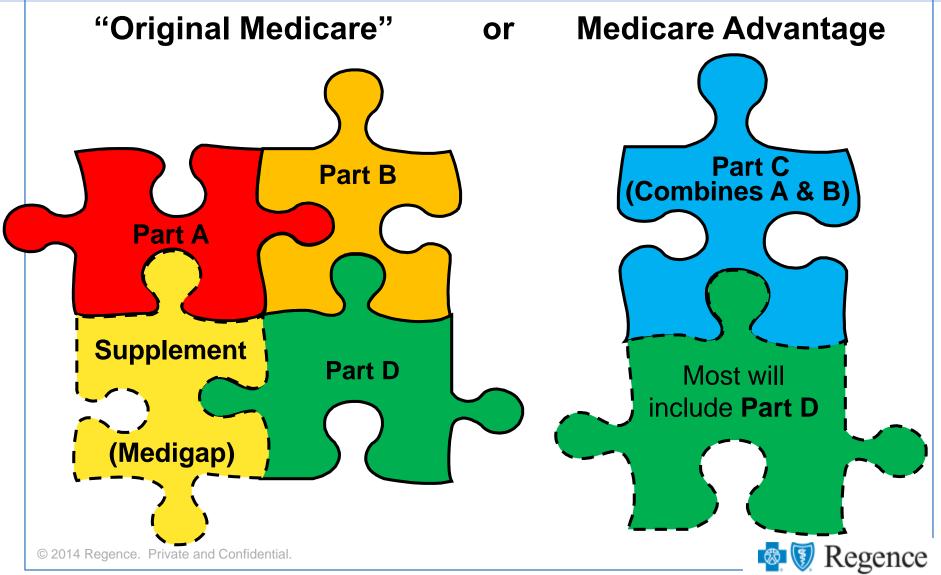
- Routine vision exams
- Routine dental care and dentures
- Experimental procedures
- Services that are not medically necessary





## **COVERAGE BEYOND ORIGINAL MEDICARE**

## Putting it all together – your Medicare choices



## **Private Insurance Offerings**

- Medigap Plans, Part D and Medicare Advantage Plans
- Highly regulated by Medicare (CMS)



- Premiums vary depending on plan, company and location
- Plan availability will vary on a county level





## **MEDIGAP PLANS**

#### **Bridge the Gap**



Medicare Supplement or Medigap plans are sold by private companies and help pay for some of the health care costs that Original Medicare doesn't cover, like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles.

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#### When to Enroll – Medigap Plans

- Must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and B
- Guarantee issue within 6 months of your Part B effective date
- If you sign-up past your initial 6 months of starting Part B, you may be subject to underwriting
  - Possible exceptions: Ending your group coverage or moving out of the service area





## Medigap Plans cont.

- Best time to buy a Medigap plan is when you first become eligible, which enables you to purchase a plan without regard to preexisting conditions and is the only time you are guaranteed to be accepted.
- Your coverage begins the same day that your Medicare Part B coverage starts.
- Medigap plans do not include prescription drug coverage.
- You will still need to add a Medicare Part D Plan to avoid a penalty.

## Medigap Plans at a glance

Madinan Danasita	Medigap Plans									
Medigap Benefits	A	В	С	D	F*	G	K	L	М	N**
Part A Coinsurance up to an additional 365 days	✓	1	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
Part B Coinsurance	<b>√</b>	1	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	1	1	50%	75%	<b>√</b>	1
Blood	<b>√</b>	1	1	1	<b>√</b>	1	50%	75%	1	✓
Hospice Care Coinsurance	1	1	1	1	1	1	50%	75%	1	1
Skilled Nursing Coinsurance			1	1	1	1	50%	75%	1	1
Part A Deductible		<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	✓	50%	75%	50%	✓
Part B Deductible			<b>V</b>		1					
Part B Excess Charges					1	1				
Foreign Travel Emergency (Up to Plan Limits)			<b>√</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>			<b>4</b>	✓
*Plan F has a high-deductible option  **Plan N pays 100% Part B coinsurance except for a copay up to \$20 for some							Out-of-Pocket Limit			
office visits and up to \$50 for emergency room visits not resulting in an inpatient admission \$4,660 \$2,								\$2,330		

## PART D – PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

## Part D – Prescription Drug Plan (PDP)

- Part D helps pay for your prescription drug costs
- Purchased from private companies (approved by Medicare)
  - PDP (works great with Medigap or Original Medicare)
  - MAPD (combines Parts A, B, C and D)
- Responsible for coinsurance and co pays

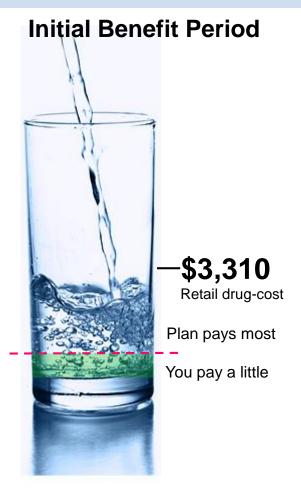


#### What to look for in prescription drug benefits

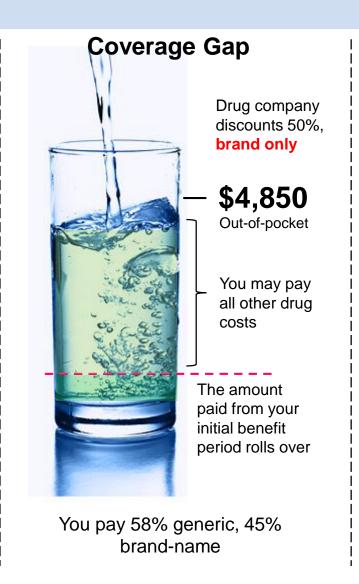
- Drug list: Also known as a "formulary"
  - "Are my drugs covered?"
  - Drug Tiers
- Participating pharmacies
  - Retail
  - Mail order
- Restrictions such as
  - Prior Authorization
  - Quantity limits
  - Step therapy



## **How Part D Prescription Drug Coverage Works**



You pay a little and the Plan pays the most, depending on the drugs



Catastrophic Coverage

No limit

(you will pay the greater of) 5% <u>or</u> \$2.95 generic / \$7.40 brand name



#### Extra Help – Low-income-subsidy

Depending on your income, you may qualify for a Low Income Subsidy (LIS) that can be used to pay for your Medicare Part D drug coverage:

#### Low Income Subsidy (LIS)

- Helps cover you prescription drug plan premiums, reduces other out-of-pocket drug costs (deductibles, co pays, co insurance), and eliminates the donut hole
- Can apply for extra help at anytime

Contact Social Security to see if you might be eligible





## Part D – Prescription Drug Coverage cont.

#### What if I'll have prescription coverage when I retire?

**NOTE:** Unless you already have "creditable" prescription drug coverage through an employer, union, VA or other means, you must obtain Part D coverage when you are first eligible. You will pay a late enrollment penalty if you choose to enroll later. This penalty is set by the federal government each year.





## PART C / MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS

## Part C – Medicare Advantage Plans

#### Some offer additional, richer benefits like:

- Vision
- Dental
- Fitness membership
- Hearing
- Prescription drug coverage
- Coverage when you travel

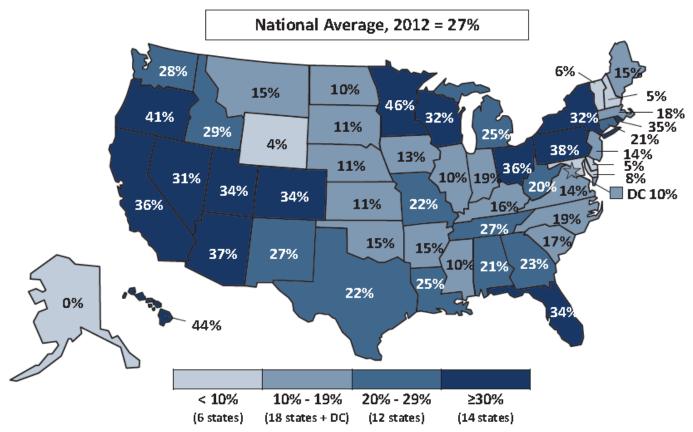
If you purchase a MA Plan, you pay a monthly premium and a percentage of some costs. You will also be required to continue paying for your Part B premium.

#### Availability will vary by county



## Medicare Advantage plans are a popular option

## Share of Medicare Beneficiaries Enrolled in Medicare Advantage Plans, by State, 2012



**NOTE:** Includes cost and demonstration plans, and enrollees in Special Needs Plans as well as other Medicare Advantage plans. **SOURCE:** MPR/Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of CMS State/County Market Penetration Files, 2012.



#### **Types of Medicare Advantage plans**

- PPO (Preferred Provider Organization)
- HMO (Health Maintenance Organization)
- PFFS (Private Fee-for-Service)

#### When to Enroll – Medicare Advantage Plans

#### Initial Enrollment Period (IEP/ICEP):

Same 7-month window as Original Medicare when you first turn 65.

#### Annual Enrollment Period (AEP):

 Change from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan Switch Medicare Advantage plans.

#### Special Election Period (SEP):

- If you are moving into a new service area, you have one month before you move and two-months after you move to sign up for a new plan
- If your current Medicare Advantage plan terminates for the next year, you have from October 15 to the end of February to sign up for a new plan.
- If you lose your employer coverage or decide to retire after you have turned 65



#### How to enroll for Medicare coverage?

- Original Medicare
  - Contact Social Security to sign up for Part A & Part B at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement
- Medicare Advantage, Part D and Medicare Supplement Plans
  - Enroll on the plans website or www.medicare.gov
  - Completing a paper application form
  - Calling the plan
  - Calling 1-800-MEDICARE
  - (NOTE: You must live in the plan's service area)



#### Resources

- www.medicare.gov see Medicare personal plan finder
- Call Medicare at 1-800-633-4227 (TTY users 1-877-486-2048)
- Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program:
   1-800-722-4134
- Review your "Medicare and You" handbook

## **THANK YOU**

