

MEDICAID → MEDICARE

Transitioning from Medicaid to Medicare



If I have Medicaid, do I need Medicare when I'm 65?

YES!

Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEDICAID AND MEDICARE?

Medicaid

Provides medical coverage for people with limited income or disabilities.

Medicare


Provides medical coverage for people 65 & over or with qualifying disabilities.

*In Colorado, Medicaid is called Health First Colorado: Colorado's Medicaid Program.

1. ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT FOR MEDICARE

- *People 65 or over or under 65 with certain disabilities*
- *US Citizens and people lawfully admitted for permanent residence*
Residing in the US for 5 consecutive years or have 40 Medicare Credits
- *Spouses that “hitchhike” on other spouse’s work record*
- *Disabled Adults/Children - receiving Social Security disability benefits for 24 months*
- *Individuals with ESRD - with kidney transplant or regular dialysis for at least 3 months*
- *Individuals with ALS - diagnosed at least 6 months*

Enroll in Medicare online SSA.org, or by visiting/calling your local Social Security Office (800) 772-1213. The time to enroll is within 3 months before your 65th birthday, birth month & 3 months after, or when you are leaving employee insurance.

 There are penalties if you choose not to enroll in Medicare and a Part D Drug Plan when you turn 65, so please take advantage of this Special Enrollment time.

2. DISCUSS YOUR FUTURE MEDICAID BENEFITS WITH YOUR LOCAL COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

There is assistance with your health insurance costs available to you if you qualify. Your county Human Services office can help you enroll in a Medicare Savings Program (MSP).

It is important to look for redetermination paperwork from Medicaid. This will arrive in the mail several months before you become eligible for Medicare. If you do not receive this paperwork, contact your local Human Services office for a copy.

3. LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM (MSP) OPTIONS

A Medicare Savings Program (MSP) is an income and asset based program that helps you cover costs related to Medicare. There are different levels of Medicare Savings coverage based on your income and assets:

- **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB):** Pays your Medicare Part A and/or Part B premium, deductibles, and coinsurance or copays.
- **Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) & Qualifying Individual (QI-1)** programs pay your Part B premium, but not your deductibles and coinsurance or copays.

4. UNDERSTAND THE KEY CHANGES THAT MAY OCCUR WITH YOUR MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY

- After turning 65, Medicare Savings Programs have different income limits than the type of Medicaid you may have been on. Your income may affect your eligibility and coverage levels.
- Medicaid may not have taken into account your assets or resources in the past but, the **Medicare Savings Programs does have asset or resource limits.**

*If you are in the Working Adults with Disabilities (WAWD) Medicaid Buy-In program, you may remain in the WAWD until you are 65. If you are in WAWD, you will be responsible for your Medicaid Buy-In premium. WAWD will help pay your monthly Medicare Part B premium, deductibles, and copays/coinsurance.

5. WHAT TYPE OF MEDICARE WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE?

With Medicare, you receive Part A which covers 80% of your Hospital and Part B which covers 80% of your doctor visits. To help pay for the remaining 20%, there are a few different options, like a Medigap supplement, Advantage plans or a Medicare Savings Plan for qualifying individuals.

Speak with a State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselor to help you understand your options and programs available to help with costs. To reach a local counselor in your area (Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, Routt, and Summit Counties) call 970-315-1329. Or reach out to the Colorado State SHIP 888-696-7213.

6. ENROLL IN A MEDICARE PART D PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE PLAN

It is important to enroll in a Drug plan! If you do not enroll into a Medicare Part D stand-alone drug plan, or Medicare Advantage plan that includes Part D drug coverage, *your medications will not be covered at the pharmacy and you will be penalized.* Once you are eligible for Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage, Medicaid will stop paying for your prescriptions at the pharmacy.

There is assistance with drug coverage available if you qualify for Medicaid, **Medicare Savings Program (MSP)**, or **Extra Help** (Low-Income Subsidy for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage). To see if you qualify, call or visit your local county Human Services Office.

*For dual eligible Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, Medicare pays first and Medicaid always pays 2nd or last.

For more information reach out to your Local
State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) 970-315-1329
Serving Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, Routt, and Summit Counties.



Part A Hospital Insurance

Medicare Part A is premium-free for those who have worked for a total of 10 years or more in the US. You may receive this benefit based on a spouse's work history. Medicare Part A hospital insurance covers 80% inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing facility, hospice, lab tests, surgery, home health care.

Part B Medical Insurance

Medicare Part B monthly premium is \$174.70 for 2024. You or your spouse must have worked in the US for 10 years to be eligible. Part B covers certain doctors' services, outpatient care, medical supplies, and preventive services. Together, Medicare Part A & B cover 80% of Hospital and Medical Insurance. There are plans that help pay the 20% that Medicare doesn't cover.

Medicare Savings Plans MSP

Medicare Savings Plans (MSP) These plans help qualifying individuals pay monthly premium, deductible's, copays, coinsurance, and may even help pay late penalties. There are three Levels of MSP depending on income and asset limits.

- **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) &** - Pays Part B monthly premium, copays, and coinsurance. QMB pays the 20% the Medicare does not cover, providing full cover.
- **Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) & Qualifying Individual (QI-1)** - Pays Part B monthly premium, but you will be responsible for paying Medicare's deductible, copays, and coinsurance. There are plans that can help you fill in this gap.

Part D Rx Drug Coverage

Medicare Part D provides prescription drug coverage through a private insurance company. You will use Part D for your prescriptions at the pharmacy. You must enroll in a Medicare Part D plan to receive coverage for your prescriptions or have drug coverage included in an Advantage plan.

Extra Help Rx Drug Assistance

Extra Help (Low-Income Subsidy for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage) If you qualify for Medicaid or a Medicare Savings Program, then you will receive Extra Help which provides financial assistance including the option of enrolling into a \$0 premium, \$0 deductible Part D Plan. This program is provided by the Social Security Administration, and helps you pay lower copays for prescription drugs at the pharmacy. You must enroll in a Medicare Part D plan to receive coverage for your prescriptions.

For more questions reach out to your local Medicare State Health Insurance Program (SHIP)
Serving Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, Routt, and Summit County 970-315-1329