

Your Medicare Open Enrollment Guide

Your Medicare decisions, simplified.

This educational guide is designed to help you understand the Medicare enrollment process and access the tools you may need to complete it independently.

October 15- December 7

Simple. Secure. Supported

Your Medicare Enrollment Guide

6 Simple Steps to Get Started



STEP 1: Know Your Enrollment Window

You can sign up starting 3 months before the month you turn 65 through 3 months after that month.
[Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)

Step 2: Necessary Documentation

- Social Security number
- Birthdate and proof of U.S. citizenship/immigration (if needed)
- Current health insurance/employer coverage info (if any)

Step 3: Enroll in Medicare

- Online (fastest): Apply at Social Security (select “Apply for Medicare Only”). [Social Security Website](https://www.ssa.gov)
- Phone: Social Security — 1-800-772-1213 (TTY available). [Social Security Website](https://www.ssa.gov)
- In person: Make an appointment at your local Social Security office (use SSA office locator). [Social Security Website](https://www.ssa.gov)
- Your enrollment will be confirmed typically within 3-4 weeks.

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Steps 4–6 — Finish Enrollment and Stay on Track



Step 4: Decide on add-ons (optional)

- Medigap + Part D (drug) or Medicare Advantage (MAPD-Part C) — compare plans with the Medicare Plan Finder before choosing. [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)

Step 5: Confirm & Get Your Card

- Medicare cards are typically mailed within 3–4 weeks of enrollment.
- Keep your Medicare number in a safe place.
- Once your card arrives, you can enroll in your preferred Medigap or Medicare Advantage plan.

Step 6: Review each year

- You can change plans during Medicare Open Enrollment (Oct 15 – Dec 7) each year.

Quick Checklist:

- Know birthday month (mark 3 months before)
- SSN & proof of citizenship/ID ready
- List of prescription drugs (if comparing Part D)
- Decide: Original Medicare + (optional) Part D / Medigap or Medicare Advantage

Helpful Resources:

- Apply / General Medicare sign-up (Social Security): SSA — “Sign up for Medicare.” [Social Security](#)
- Social Security phone: 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). [Social Security](#)
- Medicare Plan Finder (compare Part C & Part D plans): Medicare.gov Plan Finder. [Medicare](#)
- Medicare help & phone: 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY 1-877-486-2048). [Medicare](#)
- Free one-on-one counseling: State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). [Medicare](#)