

TURNING 65

Should I enroll in Medicare?

Today, many people are working past age 65. If that is you, or you are insured under your spouse's employer's health plan, then you will have a few choices for your health insurance coverage when you turn 65:

- Stay with your group insurance plan
- Enroll in Medicare
- Have a combination of both

The right choice for you depends on your unique situation. To make an informed decision, there are a few questions to consider when you are turning 65:

- ? **Is my coverage creditable?** Meaning, is my employer coverage equal to or better than Medicare? Creditable coverage could be different for Part B and Part D.
- ? **Does my group insurance offer more** or less coverage than Medicare?
- ? **What will my out-of-pocket expenses be?** What about my drug costs?

SHOULD I ENROLL IN PART A AND/OR PART B COVERAGE?

I plan to retire at 65

If you decide to retire at age 65, you will want to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B. You should enroll about three months before you want Medicare Parts A and B to become effective. If you do not have three months, enroll in Medicare Parts A and B as soon as possible.

I plan to keep working at 65

You are not required to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B if you continue to work with health coverage past the age of 65, but there are a few things to keep in mind.

- There is no cost for Part A, which is why most individuals enroll at 65.
- You are not required to enroll in Part B, but if you do, you begin a six-month time frame where Medicare Supplement coverage can be purchased without any medical underwriting. This six-month time frame is only available once.
- **Choosing to delay your enrollment in Part B coverage means this six-month time frame will begin after your current health coverage has ended, during what is called a Special Enrollment Period (SEP).**

IMPORTANT: If you plan to work past 65, you will need to confirm with your HR administrator that your current health plan is considered creditable coverage by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This will allow you to delay enrollment in Part B until your SEP. If you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when you are first eligible, or during a SEP, you will pay a late enrollment penalty.

Enrolling in Medicare

If you are receiving early retirement benefits from Social Security, you may be automatically signed up for Medicare Parts A and B. You should receive your red, white and blue Medicare card in the mail.

If you choose to delay Medicare Part B, once you receive your Medicare card, you will need to follow the instructions on the back of the card to decline.

If you are NOT receiving early retirement from Social Security, you must enroll yourself in Medicare – both Part A, and if you decide it is right for you, Part B.

To enroll, contact: Social Security Administration
SocialSecurity.gov | 800-772-1213
or visit your local Social Security office

New to Medicare Checklist

Before you are eligible for Medicare or ready to retire, use this guide to help you make timely and informed decisions.

4-6 months before you are eligible:

- Confirm your eligibility for Medicare benefits**
 - Contact the Social Security Administration
- Review your current health insurance to see what happens after you become eligible for Medicare**
 - Ask your HR department or contact Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska (BCBSNE) to learn more about your options
- Find out what Medicare covers and the different options for coverage**
 - Register for a seminar at [Medicare.NebraskaBlue.com/Seminars](https://www.Medicare.NebraskaBlue.com/Seminars) or request a copy of your “Retiring with Confidence” brochure from BCBSNE

3 months before you are eligible:

- Check with your doctor(s) to see if they accept the different types of Medicare coverage**
 - Contact your providers and local hospitals
- Decide which Medicare option is best for you**
 - Call **402-685-0588** to speak with a BCBSNE representative who can help you navigate your Medicare options

1-3 months before you are eligible:

- Enroll in Medicare A and B**
 - Contact your local Social Security office
 - If you are going to continue to work, enrolling in Part B may NOT be your best option at this time
- Enroll in a Medicare Supplement OR a Medicare Advantage (MA) plan**
 - You only need one of these options. Do NOT enroll in both Supplement and MA plans.
 - BCBSNE offers various MA and Medicare Supplement plans. Call us to find out what plans are available in your area!
- Enroll in a Part D Prescription Drug Plan**
 - All BCBSNE MA plans offer drug coverage, so you do NOT need to enroll in a separate Part D plan
 - If you choose Medicare Supplement, BCBSNE also has Part D prescription drug plans to meet your needs





MEDICARE

Looking for a Medicare expert to help assess your coverage options? Contact a local agent today.

Give us a call!

NCIS5.com | **402-685-0588**

Social Security Administration

Contact to determine when you are eligible for and to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B.

CONTACT INFORMATION

SocialSecurity.gov | 800-772-1213

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Contact for questions on Medicare Parts A and B, Medicare Advantage (Part C) and Prescription Drug Plans (Part D) coverage, claims and appeals.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Medicare.gov | 800-MEDICARE (633-4227)

Nebraska SHIP

The Nebraska SHIP (State Health Insurance Program) offers free, unbiased Medicare counseling and education related to all parts of Medicare. Contact the Nebraska SHIP for questions about Medicare options, claims and other health insurance issues.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Doi.Nebraska.gov/Consumer/Senior-Health | 800-234-7119

IS MY PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE CREDITABLE?



You may have also heard about Part D for prescription drug coverage. Everyone pays a premium for Medicare Part D. The best time to enroll will depend on whether or not you have creditable coverage.

Creditable coverage means that your current prescription drug coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage.

I plan to retire at 65

You will want to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D) at the time you enroll in Medicare Parts A and B.

- If you don't enroll in a Part D plan when you are first eligible for Medicare AND you don't have creditable coverage, you may incur a late enrollment penalty. **The penalty is 1% per month for every month not enrolled in a Part D plan from when you were first eligible.**
- If you have a health savings account (HSA) and choose to enroll in any part of Medicare, you can no longer contribute to your HSA.

I plan to keep working at 65


If you have creditable coverage through your employer, you do not have to enroll in a Part D plan at age 65.

- To determine if your current coverage is creditable, you should check with your HR or benefits department.
- If you do not have creditable coverage for Part D, you will want to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan so as not to incur a penalty.
- Most HSA plans are not considered creditable. For this reason, if you have an HSA plan and continue to work past 65, you may want to enroll into a Part D plan.

I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT MY COVERAGE.

Everyone's situation is different. Check with your HR or benefits department to learn more about your current coverage and next steps.

Speak with a local Medicare expert who can help you assess your health care needs and review information regarding Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska's Medicare options.

 **Call 402-685-0588**
or visit **NCIS5.com.**

