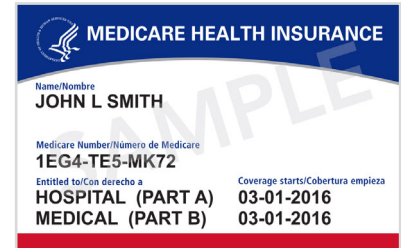


# MEDICARE BASICS

## What is Medicare?

Medicare is a federal health insurance program for:

- People age 65 or older
- People under age 65 with a qualifying disability
- Individuals with End-Stage Renal Disease



When first signing up for Medicare you can choose which way to get your Medicare coverage. There are two ways, shown below. Everyone's situation is different. You may or may not need all parts of Medicare. Some people can get insurance through other sources like their employer, a retirement package, or other sources, which can affect decision making. Remember, Medicare is individual insurance. This brochure is meant to be a general guide; prices and costs are examples and do not reflect every situation. For information specific to you, contact Nebraska SHIP.

## Pick Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan.

### Original Medicare

**Part A:**  
Inpatient  
Hospital



**Part B:**  
Outpatient  
Medical



**Supplement:**  
Pays A/B Copays  
and Deductibles



**Part D:**  
Prescription  
Medication



Premium Cost Example:

Medicare Part A	\$0.00
Medicare Part B	\$174.70
Supplement*	\$135.70
Medicare Part D*	\$38.00
<b>Combined Monthly Premiums</b>	<b>\$348.40</b>

--- OR ---

### Medicare Advantage (Part C)

**Provides Coverage of:**

Inpatient Hospital (*Part A*)  
Outpatient Medical (*Part B*)

And may include

Prescription Medication (*Part D*)  
Extra Benefits

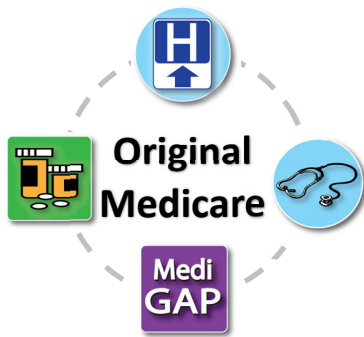


Premium Cost Example:

Medicare Part A	\$0.00
Medicare Part B	\$174.70
Medicare Advantage*	\$36.00
<b>Combined Monthly Premiums</b>	<b>\$210.70</b>

\*Prices are an example in Nebraska. Actual cost will depend on individual needs and the chosen plan.

# Medicare is individual insurance.



Original Medicare includes Part A, Inpatient Hospital, and Part B, Outpatient Medical. You can join a separate Medicare Part D, Prescription Drug Plan, to get prescription medications covered. To help pay your out-of-pocket costs in Original Medicare, you can buy a Medicare Supplement Insurance policy, or have coverage from a former employer or union, or Medicaid.

## What is Medicare Part A?



**Coverage:** Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospital stays, skilled nursing facility care, home health care, and hospice care.

**Premium Cost:** \$0 monthly premium in 2024. Typically, if you or your spouse worked 10 years and paid your Medicare taxes, Part A is premium-free. Social Security Administration will determine if you have a premium.

**Deductibles and Copays:** An inpatient hospital stay in 2024 includes a \$1,632 deductible which covers the first 60 days. The Part A deductible could be paid more than once in a year. Part A covers up to an additional 90 days in the hospital per stay. There are copays for the additional days. Other Part A services have copays as well. Part A does not have an out-of-pocket maximum.

## What is Medicare Part B?



**Coverage:** Medicare Part B covers medically necessary outpatient services including doctor or specialist visits, durable medical equipment, lab work, outpatient surgery, preventive care, and other outpatient services.

**Premium Cost:** \$174.70 monthly premium in 2024. Individuals with annual income more than \$103,000 and married couples with income more than \$206,000 may pay a higher premium.

**Deductibles and Copays:** The 2024 yearly deductible is \$240. Medicare Part B pays 80% of covered charges, after you meet this deductible. You are responsible for 20% of the covered charges. Part B does not have an out-of-pocket maximum.

# What parts are right for you?

## Premium Cost Example:

Medicare Part A	\$0.00
Medicare Part B	\$174.70
Medicare Supplement*	\$135.70
Medicare Part D*	\$38.00
<hr/>	
Combined Monthly Premiums	\$348.40

Deductibles, copays/coinsurance will vary based on the supplement plan chosen. Remember supplements only help with Part A and/or Part B costs. People should expect copays and/or coinsurance for prescription drugs.

*\*Prices are an example in Nebraska. Actual cost will depend on individual needs and the chosen plan.*

## What is Medicare Supplement Insurance?

**Coverage:** Medicare pays most of your healthcare costs. Medicare Supplement policies, or Medigap, help pay your co-pays and deductibles after Medicare has paid first. If Medicare does not pay for a service or item the supplement will not pay either. There are ten standardized plans, each offering its own different level of coverage for Medicare-covered services.



**Premium Cost:** Premiums vary based on age, primary zip code, tobacco use, gender and the policy/company you choose. For example, a Plan G Policy at age 65 ranges from \$93 - \$640 monthly, depending on the above factors.

**Deductibles and Copays:** The policy you select will determine your deductibles and copays. For example, with a Plan G policy you must pay the \$240 Part B deductible then all other Part A and B deductibles, copays, and coinsurance will be paid 100% by the supplement, after Medicare pays first.

## What is Medicare Part D?

**Coverage:** Medicare Part D plans cover prescription medications and are offered by insurance companies contracted with Medicare. In 2024, Nebraska has 22 different Part D plans. Each Part D plan covers a wide range of prescriptions and will have a unique list of covered medications.



**Premium Cost:** Monthly Part D premiums vary according to plan and range from \$0.50 - \$123.50 in 2024.

**Deductibles and Copays:** The 2024 yearly deductible for Part D plans in Nebraska is between \$0 - \$545, depending on the plan you choose. Each prescription may have a copay or coinsurance. Medicare prescription coverage has four coverage levels. Depending on your situation you may or may not progress through each level, affecting your out-of-pocket costs.

### Provides Coverage of:

Inpatient Hospital (Part A)  
Outpatient Medical (Part B)

And may include

Prescription Medication (Part D)  
Extra Benefits

### Premium Cost Example:

Medicare Part A	\$0.00
Medicare Part B	\$174.70
Medicare Advantage*	\$36.00
Combined Monthly Premiums	\$210.70



*\*Prices are an example in Nebraska. Actual cost will depend on individual needs and the chosen plan.*

## What is Medicare Advantage (Part C)?

**Coverage:** Medicare Advantage is a Medicare-approved plan from a private company that offers an alternative to Original Medicare for your health and drug coverage. Plans must cover all medically necessary services that Original Medicare covers. These “bundled” plans include Part A, Part B, and usually Part D. In most cases you’ll need to use doctors who are in the plan’s network and you may have to get a service or supply approved ahead of time for the plan to cover it. Plans may offer some extra benefits that Original Medicare doesn’t cover, like vision, and dental services.

**Premium Cost:** All Medicare Advantage plan enrollees must continue to pay the Medicare Part B premium, \$174.70. Medicare Advantage plans may also charge an additional premium which will vary based on the plan. In Nebraska, additional premiums range from \$0 - \$140 in 2024.

**Deductibles and Copays:** Out-of-pocket costs vary. Medicare Advantage Plans can have a deductible up to \$450 per year. With a Medicare Advantage plan you will owe a copay for each service or item each time you receive it. For Example:

- Primary doctor visit: \$10 per visit;
- Specialist visit: \$45 per visit;
- Outpatient hospital coverage: \$0 - 420 per visit;
- Emergency care: \$120 per visit.

Plans have a yearly limit or out-of-pocket maximum, between \$2,500 - \$13,300, in Nebraska in 2024.



Navigating Medicare

## For More Information and Assistance

### Nebraska SHIP

2717 S 8th Street, Suite 4, Lincoln, NE 68502

(800) 234-7119

[www.doi.nebraska.gov/ship](http://www.doi.nebraska.gov/ship)

[DOI.SHIP@nebraska.gov](mailto:DOI.SHIP@nebraska.gov)

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*Neither the SHIP nor the Nebraska Department of Insurance endorses any specific agent, company, product or plan of insurance.*