

Medicare readiness checklist

A quick, plain-English guide to help you prepare for Medicare and retirement.

When can you enroll in Medicare?

Your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP) begins 3 months before your 65th birthday and ends 3 months after your birthday month.¹



4+ months before turning 65

Start preparing

- ☐ **Decide when to enroll in Medicare**
Consider whether you or your spouse will still be working.
- ☐ **Learn the basics of Medicare**
Medicare coverage comes in parts – Part A, Part B, Part C and Part D.
- ☐ **Avoid late-enrollment penalties**
Review Part B and Part D penalty rules so you can help prevent them.
- ☐ **Remember the FEHB 5-year rule**
You generally must be enrolled for 5 continuous years before retirement.
- ☐ **Discuss your options**
Meet with your benefits office or agency representative.

3 months before turning 65

Compare coverage

- ☐ **Check with your care team**
Make sure your doctors and specialists accept Medicare.
- ☐ **Learn who pays for care**
Review how Medicare works with your FEHB plan.
- ☐ **Decide what fits your needs**
Consider Original Medicare + FEHB or a UnitedHealthcare Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) FEHB plan.
- ☐ **Compare drug coverage options**
Review your drug coverage and costs.
- ☐ **Weigh your options**
Consider costs, convenience and coverage simplicity.



Helpful reminders

Never cancel your FEHB coverage unless you fully understand the impact – you generally cannot re-enroll later.

Electing Medicare is a qualifying event, which allows certain coverage changes.

Review coverage every year during Federal Open Season (November-December).

Anytime during your IEP

Enroll in Medicare

Have these items ready:

- ☐ **Birth certificate**
Original or certified copy.
- ☐ **Social Security**
Number or card.
- ☐ **W-2 forms**
From the last 2 years.

Take these steps:

- ☐ **Apply for Original Medicare (Part A and Part B)**
Submit your completed application to Social Security.
- ☐ **Watch for your Medicare card**
It will arrive in the mail.
- ☐ **Report your Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)**
Find it on your Medicare card; give it to your FEHB plan administrator.

After enrolling in Original Medicare

Switch to the UnitedHealthcare Group FEHB Medicare Advantage (PPO)

Original Medicare (Part A & Part B) + FEHB

Medicare pays first and then FEHB pays

Includes Part A, Part B and FEHB supplements

Drugs are covered through your FEHB plan

Carry 2 ID cards (Medicare + FEHB)

Providers bill Medicare and then FEHB

May have deductibles, copays or coinsurance

VS

UHC Group FEHB Medicare Advantage (PPO)

One plan replaces Original Medicare

Combines Part A and Part B into a single plan

Includes Part D prescription drug coverage

Carry a single ID card

No coordination needed, one plan handles your claims

Out-of-pocket costs are often lower

- ☐ Explore the UnitedHealthcare Group FEHB Medicare Advantage (PPO) plan at retiree.uhc.com/fehbra
- ☐ Enroll in the UnitedHealthcare Group FEHB Medicare Advantage (PPO) plan with 1 ID card or carry both cards, Medicare and FEHB ID, to your appointments
- ☐ Do not sign a private contract with providers, it may opt you out of Medicare coverage
- ☐ Do not suspend or cancel your FEHB plan if you elect to enroll in the UnitedHealthcare Group FEHB Medicare Advantage (PPO)

Medicare:
[medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) or 1-800-MEDICARE

FEHB & retirement info:
retireefehb.opm.gov

UnitedHealthcare Medicare Plan Expert:²
1-855-831-6213, TTY 711, 8 a.m.–8 p.m., 7 days a week.

UnitedHealthcare Medicare resources:
medicaremadeclear.com

Plans are insured through UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company or one of its affiliated companies. For Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans: A Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract and a Medicare-approved Part D sponsor. Enrollment in the plan depends on the plan's contract renewal with Medicare. Medicare Plan Expert is a licensed sales agent/producer.

¹ If your birthday is on the first of the month, your 7-month period starts earlier. It starts 4 months before you turn 65 and ends 2 months after the month you turn 65.

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