

Medicare Drug Coverage: Part B vs. Part D

It's helpful to know which part of Medicare covers your prescription drugs and associated supplies. Please use this guide:

What is Part B?

Part B is the Medicare outpatient medical benefit. It covers most doctor services, durable medical equipment, preventive care, ambulance services and more.

What is Part D?

Part D (D=drugs) is the outpatient prescription drug benefit for individuals covered by Medicare. (You must have either Medicare Part A or Part B to be eligible for Part D.) Part D is available only through private companies, including Medicare Advantage plans.

Which part covers my drugs and supplies?

Most drugs are covered under Part D. However, some drugs can be covered under Part B or Part D, depending on how the drug is used and how it is administered. Also, there are some drugs that are only covered under Part B.

Drug	Coverage under Part B	Coverage under Part D
Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) using antiretroviral drugs*	Used to prevent HIV before exposure	Treatment for HIV infection
Vaccines*	Flu, pneumonia, COVID-19, and hepatitis B vaccines for high to intermediate risk Treatment after exposure	Hepatitis B as routine prophylaxis and all other commercially available vaccines, including shingles vaccine
Diabetic testing supplies (CGMs, glucose meters supplies)*	Always Part B	Not covered
Hyaluronic acids injected into a joint*	Always Part B	Not covered
Hemophilia clotting factors*	Always Part B	Not covered
Antigens*	Always Part B	Not covered
Immunosuppressant drugs* for transplant patients	Self-administered to support a transplant that occurred while you were enrolled in Part A	Administered when you were not enrolled in Medicare Part A at the time you had the transplant or not used to support a transplant

Drug		Coverage under Part B	Coverage under Part D
Durable medical equipment (DME) supply drugs	Infusion drugs	Drugs administered by an implantable infusion pump or Drugs administered by an external infusion pump at home (such as insulin and chemotherapy)*	Drugs administered by an external infusion pump outside of home Infusion drugs administered at home without an infusion pump
	Inhalation drugs	Drugs used with a nebulizer at home*	Drugs used with a nebulizer in a long term care facility Drugs administered without a nebulizer
Intravenous immunoglobulin		Use to treat primary immune deficiency and administered in the home	Use to treat conditions other than primary immune deficiency and purchased from a pharmacy
Self-administered drugs in an outpatient hospital or ER setting		If they relate to the care or procedure you are receiving in the hospital	Medications you usually take and administer yourself
Oral anti-cancer drugs		Certain oral anti-cancer drugs used to treat cancer where there is an injectable version (such as capecitabine)	You use the drug to treat a condition other than cancer
Oral anti-nausea drugs (anti-emetics)		Used as a full therapeutic replacement for intravenous anti-nausea medications within 48 hours of chemotherapy It can be administered by yourself or by a doctor	The drug is used for conditions other than cancer Used more than 48 hours after chemotherapy or not as full replacement for intravenous anti-nausea medications
Parenteral nutrition (administered by infusion)		If you cannot absorb nutrition through your intestines	Used for other reasons or you can absorb nutrition through your intestines

*For these products, present your UHC Medicare Advantage card to the pharmacy for processing.