



Retiring at 65 with an Individual Plan

Plan ahead to make your move to Medicare easier if you retire at 65.

If you're planning to retire at 65, it's best to get familiar with your Medicare options before it's time to enroll so you can make your transition to Medicare as smooth as possible — and avoid any potential penalties.

As you plan for retirement, you'll want to know when you can enroll in a Medicare plan, or your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP). This is the seven-month period when you first become eligible for Medicare and can enroll in a plan:

- ✓ Starts three months before the month you turn 65
- ✓ Includes the month you turn 65
- ✓ Ends three months after the month you turn 65

It's important to note that **Medicare enrollment doesn't automatically happen when you turn 65**. And if you don't enroll in a Medicare plan when you're eligible, you could risk a gap in your coverage and may have to pay a late-enrollment penalty.

Parts of Original Medicare

Whether you're working or not, when you turn 65, you can enroll in **Medicare Part A**, which helps cover the cost of hospital stays and other related care, such as lab tests and surgery. If you or your spouse contributed to Medicare through payroll deductions for at least 10 years or 40 quarters, then Part A will be premium-free.

Medicare Part B covers outpatient procedures and doctor visits, and depending on your monthly income, there is a premium cost. You'll need to sign up for Medicare Part B when you become eligible. Otherwise, you may have to pay a late-enrollment penalty.