Your Social Security & Health Insurance Options

Presented by: Dot Hartman
610-374-3195

APPRISE

- Free, public program of PA Dept of Aging
- Unbiased Advice
- Do not sell or endorse any insurance plans
- Berks Co. APPRISE staff work at Berks Encore plus numerous volunteers

PDA Pennsylvania Department of Aging APPRISE
Federal Health Exchange Navigators

- Assist in applying for Insurance in The Marketplace
- Do not sell or endorse any insurance plans
- Working under Federal Grant with RHD

Understanding Your Options

- When can you start collecting Social Security?
- Where can you get Health Insurance?
- When and how to apply?
- What does Medicare cover?
- How much does Medicare cost?
- How to Supplement Medicare coverage
- What financial assistance programs are available?
Applying for Social Security

- Year of Birth
  - 1943-1954
  - 1955
  - 1956
  - 1957
  - 1958
  - 1959
  - 1960 or later

- Full Retirement Age
  - 66
  - 66 and 2 months
  - 66 and 4 months
  - 66 and 6 months
  - 66 and 8 months
  - 66 and 10 months
  - 67

When can you apply for Social Security?

- You may start as early as age 62 – however your benefit is reduced about ⅔ of 1% for each month you start before full retirement age.

- You can continue to work and receive retirement benefits, but if you are before full retirement age $1 in benefits is deducted for each $2 in earnings you have above the annual limit. ($15,480 in 2014)

- In the year you reach your full retirement age, your benefits will be reduced $1 for every $3 you earn over the annual limit. ($41,400 in 2014)
When can you apply, cont’d?

- Once you reach full retirement age, you can keep working and your benefits are not reduced no matter how much you earn.
- You can delay receiving benefits beyond your full retirement age and increase you benefits by a certain percentage, up to the age of 70.
- Your increase will depend on the year you were born.

Where can you get Health Insurance coverage?

- Are you over or under age 65?
- Are you eligible for Veteran’s Benefits?
- Are you working for an employer with more than 20 employees?
What is The Marketplace?

- A place to obtain Federally Qualified Health Plans for
  - People not already on a gov’t subsidized program, such as Medicare, Medicaid, or Veteran’s Benefits
  - People not eligible for employer group coverage
  - You must be a US Citizen or legal immigrant.
  - Tax Credits and cost savings are available, depending on the household size and income
  - No questions about pre-existing conditions
  - Maximum annual Out of Pocket limits for individuals

How to Enroll in The Marketplace?

- During Annual Open Enrollment: Nov 15 – Feb 15
- During a Special Enrollment Period (within 60 days of):
  - Loss of employer or COBRA coverage
  - Change in marital status
  - Moving into a new state
  - Gain in immigration status
- Go on-line at www.healthcare.gov
- Call a Navigator at Berks Encore: 610-374-3195
- Call The Marketplace at 1-800-318-2596
What is Medicare?

- A federal health insurance program for
  - People age 65 years or older
  - People under age 65 who have collected Social Security Disability for more than 24 months.

- You must be a US Citizen or legal immigrant for at least five years.

  Medicare is not the same as Medicaid.

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How Do I Enroll in Medicare?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If...</th>
<th>Then...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You get Social Security retirement or disability payments</td>
<td>You will be enrolled automatically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You will soon turn 65 years old</td>
<td>You should contact the Social Security Administration to sign up 1-800-772-1213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enroll online at <a href="http://www.ssa.gov">www.ssa.gov</a>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When to Enroll in Medicare

- You don’t have to be retired
- Your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP) lasts 7 months
  - Begins 3 months before your 65th birthday
  - Includes the month you turn 65
  - Ends 3 months after you turn 65
- There are other times you may enroll
  - But you may pay a penalty if you delay

What if I Already Have Health Insurance?

- You can defer your Medicare Part B (doctor’s insurance) until later
  - If you have coverage from your or your spouse’s job
  - Plan must be from active employment, not a retiree plan
  - If the employer has more than 20 full-time staff
  - COBRA does not count as an employer plan
- You can still get Part A (hospital insurance)

*If you don’t sign up for Part B when you leave your employer plan (within 8 months), you will have to pay a penalty. You may not be able to return to your employer plan.*
What if I Already Have Drug Coverage?

- You can wait to sign up for a Part D plan, too.

If you don’t sign up for Part D within 63 days of losing your “creditable coverage”, you will have to pay a penalty. “Creditable” means your coverage is as good as Medicare’s prescription drug coverage.

If you sign up for Part D when you join Medicare, you have from three months before your birthday month to three months after your birthday month to do so.

The Medicare Card

1. Carry your card with you when you are away from home.
2. Let your hospital or doctor see your card when you require hospital, medical, or health services under Medicare.
3. Your card is good wherever you live in the United States.

If you do not want Part B, check the box next to “I do not want Medical insurance.” Then, send the Medicare card back before the Part B effective date.
## 2014 Medicare Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Part A</th>
<th>Part B</th>
<th>Part C</th>
<th>Part D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monthly Premium</strong></td>
<td>$0*</td>
<td>$104.90 Per month</td>
<td>$0-$219 (varies by plan) and Part B premiums</td>
<td>$12.60-169.00 (varies by plan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deductible</strong></td>
<td>$1,216 Per benefit period (days 1-60 in hospital stay)</td>
<td>$147 Per year</td>
<td>$0-$1500 Per year (varies by plan)</td>
<td>$0-$310 Per year (varies by plan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Co-Insurance</strong></td>
<td>Hospital - $304/day (days 61-90), $608/day (days 91-150)</td>
<td>20% for all Part B services, except 40% for mental health</td>
<td>Co-pays vary by plan</td>
<td><strong>Part D Coverage Gap</strong> - 52.5% of brand name drugs and 28% of generic drugs (while paying $2,850 to $4,750 of out-of-pocket costs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If the beneficiary (or their spouse) has not paid Medicare taxes for at least 40 work quarters, they will pay a monthly Part A premium.*
Coverage Choices

There are two ways to supplement Medicare

- Medicare Parts A & B
  - Part A + Part B
  - Part D (Prescription drug coverage)
  - Medigap (Covers Part A & B cost sharing)

- Medicare Advantage Part C
  - Part E (Combines hospital costs, doctor, and outpatient care in one plan)
  - Part D (Most Medicare Advantage Plans include prescription drug coverage)
  - Additional Benefits (vision, dental, hearing)

What is a Medigap Policy?

- Medicare Supplement Insurance Policies
  - Sold by private companies
- Fill the gaps in Original Medicare
  - Deductibles, coinsurance, copayments
- Standardized plans in PA
- All plans with same letter
  - Have same coverage
  - Only the costs are different
Medicare.gov Homepage

When can I switch plans?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment Period</th>
<th>What You Can Do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 15-December 7</td>
<td>Original Medicare ↔ Medicare Advantage Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medicare Advantage Plan ↔ Medicare Advantage Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prescription Drug Plan ↔ Prescription Drug Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+/− Prescription Drug Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1-February 14</td>
<td>Medicare Advantage Plan → Original Medicare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Prescription Drug Plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make sure your doctor accepts your new plan. Check to see if you can switch back if you change your mind.
## Cost Saving Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicare Savings Program</th>
<th>Medicare Savings Program</th>
<th>Part D Drug Coverage</th>
<th>Income</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eligibility</strong> (2012/13)</td>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What it Pays</th>
<th></th>
<th>$LMB &amp; QO – Part B</th>
<th>Part D premiums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- QMB – Part A &amp; B monthly premiums, co-pays, Part A &amp; B annual deductibles</td>
<td>- SLMB &amp; QO – Part B monthly premiums</td>
<td>- All or part of Part D premiums</td>
<td>- Rx coverage gap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- All or part of the annual Rx deductible</td>
<td>- Most or all of Rx cost</td>
<td>- Quantity may be limited</td>
<td>- Most of Rx cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Most of co-pays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Small deductible for PACENET, if no Part D plan</td>
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</table>

| Where to Apply | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| PA Department of Public Welfare | PA Department of Public Welfare | Social Security Administration | Partnership for Assistance \nPennsylvania |
| [www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us) or Berks Encore | [www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us) or Berks Encore | [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or Berks Encore | [1-800-955-0989](tel:1-800-955-0989) or [www.pagenet.org](http://www.pagenet.org) |

## Who Can Help?

**APPRISE Counselors & Navigators at Berks Encore**

- Call for individual counseling at 610-374-3195 x208
- Email us with any specific questions: [APPRISE@BerksEncore.org](mailto:APPRISE@BerksEncore.org)
- Attend educational seminars – monthly schedule on [www.BerksEncore.org](http://www.BerksEncore.org)
- [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)