

Medicare Quick Reference

Medicare is health insurance for people 65 or older. You are eligible to sign up for Medicare 3 months before you turn 65. You may be eligible to get Medicare earlier if you have a disability, End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), or ALS

- **Initial Enrollment Period.** When you first become eligible for Medicare, you can join a plan.
- **Open Enrollment Period.** From October 15 – December 7 each year, you can join, switch, or drop a plan. Your coverage will begin on January 1 (as long as the plan gets your request by December 7).
- **Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period.** From January 1 – March 31 each year, if you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you can switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan or switch to Original Medicare (and join a separate Medicare drug plan) once during this time. **Note:** You can only switch plans once during this period.

Part A (Hospital Insurance): Helps cover inpatient care in hospitals, skilled nursing facility care, hospice care, and home health care.

Part B (Medical Insurance): Helps cover services from doctors and other health care providers, outpatient care, home health care, durable medical equipment (like wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, and other equipment), many preventive services (like screenings, shots or vaccines, and yearly “Wellness” visits)

Part D (Drug coverage): Helps cover the cost of prescription drugs (including many recommended shots or vaccines).

HELP IS AVAILABLE WHEN APPLYING FOR MEDICARE

The Social Security office in Columbia is located at 3402 Buttonwood Dr. Ste. 101

Representatives assist with questions about Medicare Part A and B. They can also help:

- ✓ Get a replacement Medicare card
- ✓ Get a new or replacement Social Security card
- ✓ Apply for SSI or Disability benefits

Website: [Columbia, MO Social Security Office - 3402 Buttonwood Dr - 65201](#)

Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 – 4:00

Phone: (866) 563-9108

Note: If applying in person, ask your local Social Security representative what you need to bring when you call to schedule your appointment. They can help you if you don't have all your documents right now.

Services can also be done online if you are not able to go to the Columbia office location.

Online services: [Get started with Medicare | Medicare](#)

Required information for you Medicare application:

- Your Social Security number
- Dates of current and previous marriages, and where you were married.
- U.S. military service dates and branches.
- Employer names and dates for the past two years.
- Self-employment income and type of business.
- Bank information to set up your direct deposit.
- Family members who may be eligible to receive benefits on your record.

Required documents may include:

- Your original birth certificate or other [proof of your age](#). This must be the original document or a [certified copy from the issuing agency](#).
- Proof of U.S. citizenship if you were not born in the U.S. and have not submitted proof for an earlier Medicare or Social Security claim. We must see the original document(s) or copies certified by the agency that issued them. We cannot accept expired, notarized, or photocopied documents.
- A copy of your [W-2 tax form\(s\)](#) and/or [self-employment](#) tax return from last year. A photocopy is acceptable.
- A copy of your [U.S. military service papers](#) if you served before 1968. A photocopy is acceptable.

As you prepare to apply for benefits, first gather the documents listed on our [Checklist for Online Medicare, Retirement & Spouses Application](#). Instructions on how to submit your documents will appear at the end of the online application.

If applying by phone, gather the information above. A representative will walk you through the process on the phone.

Local Medicare Application Assistance:

Columbia Resource Center

601 Business Loop 70 W
Parkade Center Ste 272
Columbia, MO 65203
Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs or Fri: 8:00 – 5:00 and Wed. 9:00 – 5:00
Phone: [855-373-4636](tel:855-373-4636)

Family Resource Center

2700 W Ash Street
Columbia, MO 65203
Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:00 – 4:00
Phone: [573-874-1995](tel:573-874-1995)

Primaris

4215 Philips Farm Rd
Ste 101B
Phone: [573-817-8300](tel:573-817-8300)
Website: primaris.org