

Medicare 101!

The
Fulton
County **OFFICE**
FOR AGING
*Vital information
for vital generations.*



Brought to you under the New York State Office for Aging's Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP). **What is HIICAP?** HIICAP is the New York State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). It receives federal funds from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to operate a statewide network of local programs. HIICAP educates the public about Medicare, Medicaid, managed care, New York's Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC), and other health insurance options and issues. HIICAP assists people with Medicare to access needed health care and to apply for programs such as the Medicare Savings Programs. **Fulton Co. Office for Aging has certified Health Insurance Counselors on staff to assist you!**

Eligibility:

- Turning 65 years old. Automatic if collecting Social Security, otherwise you must actively enroll through Social Security website or office.
–OR–
- Almost immediately for End Stage Renal Failure or Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS)
–OR–
- After 24 months collecting Social Security Disability

Coverage:

- Original Medicare: Part A pays 80% of hospital bills and Part B pays 80% of doctor and specialist visits, medical equipment and some vaccines. Both A and B pay after some deductibles. For most people A is free and B costs \$148.50/month in 2021. A and B do NOT cover monthly prescription
- Supplement/Medigap: A private insurance company pays the above mentioned deductibles and the rest of hospital and doctor bills in most cases, depending on the level of plan. Premiums are around \$150 - \$300+/month.
- Part D: this Medicare law specifies that you must get a prescription plan from a private insurance company to cover prescriptions. You will have set co-pays per each tier of drug after a deductible.

-OR-


- Advantage/Part C Plans: From private insurance companies and manage all of your Medicare (A, B, D) and use your Medicare account so your premiums are usually \$0 per month. They are allowed to add hearing, vision, dental, fitness and other benefits. You will have set co-pays for services and your preventative/routine care is free and your primary doctor visits are usually free.

Financial Help (Depends on income):

- The State can pay for Part B (Medicare Savings Program-MSP) and discount drugs after insurance (Elderly Pharmaceutical Program-EPIC).
- The Federal Government can also discount drugs after insurance (Extra Help, also known as Low Income Subsidy – LIS).
- Hospitals offer financial assistance to cover all or part of your insurance co-pay.

WARNING! You must take B and D unless you are covered by active employment or plan to only use the Veteran’s healthcare system! Otherwise you will pay a penalty.

Get more information Medicare: medicarerights.org or medicare.gov



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518-736-5650

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