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# **ALL ABOUT MEDICARE – 2022**

## **Annual Election Period (AEP) - 2022**

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# Your opportunities during the Annual Election Period

## Your options during the Annual Registration Period:

- Switch from *Original Medicare* to *Medicare Advantage*
- Switch from *Medicare Advantage plan* back to *Original Medicare*. Once you are in Original Medicare, you might consider registering for *Medicare Supplement (Medigap)*.
- Switch from one *Medicare Advantage plan* to another *Medicare Advantage plan*.
- Switch from *Medicare Advantage*, which doesn't cover drug costs, to *Medicare Advantage*, which does cover drug costs.
- Switch from a *Medicare Advantage plan* that offers drug coverage to a *Medicare Advantage plan* that does not cover drug coverage.
- Join *Medicare Prescription Drug Plan*
- Switch from one *Medicare Prescription Drug Plan* to another *Prescription Drug Plan*
- Give up *Medicare Prescription Drug Plan* completely

**Zero-premium Medicare Advantage plans** can often be available in your geographic area.

**Be careful with your changes.** For example, if you participate in a *Medicare Advantage plan with a Prescription Drug Coverage Plan (MAPD)* and decide to join a *standalone Prescription Drug Plan (PDP)*, **you will be disenrolled from the MAPD and return to Original Medicare.**

# Useful Facts about the Annual Election Period (AEP)

- All Medicare Advantage Plans / PDP Plans are annual plans ending December 31, 2021. Insurance companies can either update the plan for 2022 (with or without changes in benefits / insurance premiums) or terminate the plan.
- If your Medicare Advantage / PDP plan is renewed by the vendor and you do nothing during AEP, your plan will be automatically renewed for the next year.
- **Dates**
  - 📅 **September and October** - Compare your current plan (including received change notice (ANOC)) with other plans in the market
  - 📅 **October 15** - Start of AEP
  - 📅 **December 7** - End of AEP
- Your new coverage will begin on January 1, 2022.
- You can make more than one choice during AEP. Your last choice will cancel all previously made selections.

# Do you have to change plan during the Annual Election Period (AEP)?



Once you have received the **Annual Notice of Change (ANOC)** from your current insurance plan, follow these steps:

- **Assess your health status**

- Has your health changed in the last year?
- Do you foresee the need for any major procedures / operations next year?
- Do you need to increase insurance coverage?

- **Review your current plan**

- Does it cover the services you need?
- Does it provide services that you do not use?
- Are you satisfied with monthly insurance premiums, deductibles, coinsurances / copayments?
- Does the network of your plan (hospitals and doctors) fit your needs?

- **Based on the ANOC you received from your insurance plan, how your plan will be changed in terms of:**

- Benefits
- Monthly premium
- Deductibles, coinsurances and copayments
- Network

- Visit the **Medicare Plan Finder ([www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov))**. This site allows you to compare your plan with other Medicare Advantage / Prescription Drug (PDPs) plans in your area. This is a great starting point for your search.
- Contact your Medicare insurance agent. Use independent insurance agencies (such as *Liberty Medicare*) that DO NOT work for any particular insurance company, but instead represent numerous insurance companies. Such agencies will compare the plans of various companies and **offer the best plan for you. You do not need to pay for their services.**

# Annual Election Period and its impact on Medicare Supplement Enrollment

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The Annual Election Period determines when you can exit the Medicare Advantage plan. **After you return to Original Medicare, you can try to sign up for the Medicare Supplement (Medigap) Plan at any time.**

Consider the following two options:

- You are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan and want to upgrade to a Medigap plan.
  - ✚ You need to wait for the next **Annual Election Period** or **Special Registration Period (SEP)**. It will give you the opportunity to return to Original Medicare, and sign up for the Medicare Supplement. Also, if your Medicare Advantage included a Prescription Drug Coverage (MAPD), then be sure to add a standalone Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (Part D).
- You are enrolled in Original Medicare and want to enroll in Medicare Supplement (Medigap) Plan.
  - ✚ You can join a Medigap plan or change your Medigap plan to another Medigap plan **at any time**. The Annual Election Period does not matter in this case. Remember to keep your current Medigap insurance until a new Medigap insurance is approved.



# Other Registration Periods

In addition to the **Annual Election Period**, you can sign up or change one Medicare Advantage / Prescription Drug plan to another **only** during one of the following enrollment periods.

People with **Medicare and Medicaid**, or people who have the right to **Extra Help** are exception to this rule. They can change plans once a quarter.





## Initial Enrollment Period

- **Initial Enrollment Period or IEP** — A 7-month period that begins 3 months before you turn 65, or, in the event of a disability, 3 months before your 25th month of disability. It is used to register with Medicare Advantage / Prescription Drug Plan, and includes 7 months adjacent to the 65th anniversary, i.e. 3 months before, month of the 65th anniversary, and 3 months after.

## Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

- **The Special Enrollment Period or SEP** allows you to change your coverage **outside** of the normal Enrollment Periods.

SEP Examples:

-  you left the geographic coverage area of the plan
-  you have lost health insurance from your employer
-  you are entitled to an Extra Help program
-  you have Medicare and Medicaid

## Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MA OEP)

- **The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MA OEP)** is open for people with the Medicare Advantage Plan. It occurs annually between January 1 and March 14, and **allows you to change your Medicare Advantage plan to another Medicare Advantage plan or return to Original Medicare**, supplementing it with a standalone Medicare Prescription Drug plan.

# Changes to Medicare - 2022

## Part A Cost

- **Part A Premium**
  - For individuals with 40 or more quarters of Medicare-covered employment: **\$0** per month
  - For individuals with 30-39 quarters of Medicare-covered employment: **\$274** per month
  - For individuals with less than 30 quarters of Medicare-covered employment: **\$499** per month
- **Hospital Inpatient Stay**
  - Deductible for days 1-60 of each benefit period: **\$1,556**
  - Coinsurance per day for days 1-60 of each benefit period: **\$0**
  - Coinsurance per day for days 61-90 of each benefit period: **\$389**
  - For days 91 and beyond: **\$778** per lifetime reserved day
  - Beyond lifetime reserved days: all costs
- **Mental Health Inpatient Stay**
  - Deductible for days 1-60 of each benefit period: **\$1,556**
  - Coinsurance per day for days 1-60 of each benefit period: **\$0**
  - Coinsurance per day for days 61-90 of each benefit period: **\$389**
  - For days 91 and beyond: **\$778** per lifetime reserved day
  - Beyond lifetime reserved days: all costs
- **Skilled Nursing Facility Stay**
  - **\$0** for the first 20 days of each benefit period
  - **\$194.50** per day for days 21-100 of each benefit period
  - Days 101 and beyond: all costs

## Part B Cost

- **Part B Premium**
  - **\$170.10** (or higher depending on your income)
- **Part B Annual Deductible**
  - **\$233**

## **Maximum out-of-pocket limit (MOOP)**

- Voluntary: \$3,450
- Mandatory: \$7,550

## **Acupuncture for back pain**

- Medicare now covers up to 12 acupuncture visits in 90 days for chronic low back pain.

## **Telehealth & Other virtual services**

- Telehealth benefits allow you to get medical or health services that generally occur in-person (like office visits and consultations) from a doctor or other health care provider who's located elsewhere using real-time interactive audio and video technology. Medicare also covers certain virtual services, like E-visits and Virtual check-ins.

## **Physician-Fee Schedule Rule Updates**

- Starting in 2021, physicians will see payment cuts of 8%. The rule will cut payments to social workers and psychologists by 7%.

# Changes to Medicare Advantage - 2022

## Medicare Advantage & End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

- If you have ESRD, you can join a Medicare Advantage Plan during Open Enrollment (October 15–December 7, 2021). Your plan coverage will start January 1, 2022.

## The new long-term care benefits

The new long-term care benefits added to some Medicare Advantage plans may help. The new benefits include:

- Increased access to certain long-term care services – including nutrition services
- Home safety modifications
- Adult daycare

## Extended Supplemental Benefits

- Dental (up to \$3,000 per year)
- Vision (up to \$400 per year)
- Hearing (up to \$1,250 per year)
- Over-the-Counter (OTC) (up to \$120 per quarter)
- Gym
- Meals at Home
- Resources for Living
- 24-hour Nurse Line

# Changes to Prescription Drug Plans - 2022

## Yearly Deductible

You pay the first **\$480** drug costs before the plan starts to pay (\$445 in 2021).

## Initial Coverage

For each covered drug you pay a copayment/coinsurance defined by the plan, and the plan pays its share. The typical coinsurance is 25%, which means you pay 25% of the drug costs; the insurance company pays the rest. The initial coverage continues until the total drug costs (total of what you've paid and what the insurance company paid) reach **\$4,430** (\$4,130 in 2021). You pay 25% of costs between **\$480** and **\$4,430** (between \$445 and \$4,130 in 2021).

## Coverage Gap

Once the total costs of prescriptions paid by you and your plan have reached **\$4,430** (\$4,130 in 2021), you will pay ALL drug costs until you've spent **\$7,050** true out-of-pocket costs (**TrOOP**) (\$6,550 in 2021). This does not include monthly premiums (you must continue to pay them) but does include yearly deductible and coinsurance/copayments.

In 2022, during the Gap period, you'll pay for **25.0%** of brand name drug undiscounted costs (25.0% in 2021) and **25%** of generic drug costs (25% in 2021). Nevertheless, you can count the full price of the prescription towards the amount you are required to spend to qualify for catastrophic coverage.

## Catastrophic Coverage

Once you've spent **\$7,050** out-of-pocket during the year for PDP (\$6,550 in 2021), the coverage gap ends, and catastrophic coverage begins. You will pay the greater of either a small **5%** coinsurance (5% in 2021) or a small copayment of **\$3.95** for generic drugs (\$3.70 in 2021) and **\$9.85** for brand name drugs (\$9.20 in 2021) for each drug until the end of the calendar year.

## Lower out-of-pocket costs for Insulin / Part D Senior Savings Model

You may be able to join a drug plan that gives supplemental benefits for insulin in 2022. The Part D Senior Savings Model is available to all people with Medicare. Plans that participate in this model will offer coverage choices that include multiple types of insulin at a **maximum copayment of \$35 for a 30-day supply**.



## About Us – Liberty Medicare

- **Liberty Medicare** is an independent insurance agency specializing in a **variety of Medicare plans** for people over 65, or for people under 65 who are on a disability. These plans include: **Medicare Supplement Plans (Medigap Plans), Medicare Advantage Plans, and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans.**
- Our services are offered in many US states, including six states in the Central Atlantic (**Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware**) and two states in the Midwest (**Illinois and Ohio**).
- Our service for you is **ABSOLUTELY FREE**
  - ✚ For independent insurance agencies like ours, insurance companies provide a commission whenever we register a client with one of their plans. Whether you apply to the insurance company yourself or through us, **your premium will be EXACTLY SAME - the commission is always part of the premium.**
- We represent only **nationally famous insurance companies.**
- While you are our client, we present a LIFE COMMITMENT, including servicing your policy and suggestions for improving it. This is especially important at the end of the year during the **Annual Election Period**, when many senior citizens change their plans for the next year.

- **Medicare** is a complex and confusing subject. Choosing and maintaining a Medicare plan yourself can be very time consuming for you.
  - ✚ Instead of calling numerous insurance companies when you sit endlessly waiting for an answer, and after getting the answer constantly retell the same story, you can dial one number: **877-657-7477**. Our ten years of experience **will help you save time, money, and avoid future surprises and disappointments.**
- **Contact Us:**
  - ✚ **веб-сайт:** [www.libertymedicare.com](http://www.libertymedicare.com)
  - ✚ **e-mail:** [info@libertymedicare.com](mailto:info@libertymedicare.com)
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