Medicare in a Nutshell 2019



Part A – Hospital Insurance

Premiums: No charge for most people (those who have paid Medicare taxes long enough to have at least 40 work credits (10 years.)

\$240.00 per month for people with 30-39 work credits

\$437.00 per month for people with less than 30 work credits

Deductible per benefit period: \$1,364.00

Here are the amounts you pay:

Skilled Nursing Facility Coinsurance

1-20 days: You pay \$0

21-100 days: You pay \$170.50/day 100+ days: You are responsible for

all costs

Hospital Coinsurance

1-60 days: You pay \$0

61-90 days: You pay **\$341/day 91-150 days:** You pay **\$682/day**

After a 90-day stay, Medicare will only help cover 60 more days in the hospital. These are known as your "lifetime reserve days". You may use

them all at once, or at the end of many different 90-day stays.

150+ days: All costs. After your lifetime reserve days are used up, you are responsible for all costs for any day you stay in the hospital beyond 90 days.

Part B – Medical Insurance

Part B Standard Premium - \$135.50 per month*

Part B Deductible: \$185 per year

Part B Coinsurance: After your deductible is met, you usually pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for most doctor services, outpatient services, and durable medical equipment.

See chart below for the 2019 Part B monthly premiums to be paid by beneficiaries that had a higher income as reported on their IRS tax return in **2017**:

i	Beneficiaries who file an individual tax return with income	Beneficiaries who file a joint tax return with income	Income-related monthly adjustment (IRMAA)	Total monthly premium
	\$85,000 or less	\$170,000 or less	\$0	\$135.50
	\$85,000+ to \$107,000	\$170,000+ to \$214,000	\$54.10	\$189.60
	\$ 107,000+ to \$133,500	\$214,000+ to \$267,000	\$135.40	\$270.90
	\$133,500+ to \$160,000	\$267,000+ to \$320,000	\$216.70	\$352.20
	\$160,000+ to \$500,000	\$320,000+ to \$750,000	\$297.90	\$433.40
•	\$500,000+	\$750,000+	\$325.00	\$460.50

Married, filed separate tax returns	Income-related monthly adjustment (IRMAA)	Total monthly premium
\$85,000 or less	\$0.00	\$135.50
\$85,000+ to \$415,000	\$297.90	\$433.40
\$415,000 +	\$325.00	\$460.50

IRMAA: Income-related monthly adjustment amount:

The amount that people with higher incomes pay in addition to the standard monthly premium. The size of the IRMAA is based on people's tax bracket.

Part B Late Enrollment Penalty: If you don't sign up for Part B when you're first eligible, or if you drop Part B and then get it again later, you may have to pay a permanent late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Medicare. Your monthly premium for Part B may go up 10% for each full 12-month period that you could have had Part B, but didn't sign up for it. You will have to wait to sign up until the General Enrollment Period, January 1 – March 31 each year. Coverage will start July 1.

^{*}People with limited income and assets may get help from Medicaid or the Medicare Savings Program to help pay Part A and/or B premiums, which also removes late enrollment penalties.

Part D − Prescription drug insurance

Benefits: This optional coverage helps pay for prescription medications. If you have other creditable drug coverage (equally good prescription insurance) you usually do not need a Medicare Part D plan. There are 22 different plans in Alaska for 2019. Enrollment is when you first become eligible for Medicare or Oct. 15-Dec. 7 (the Open Enrollment Period). Costs and covered drugs can change each year, so compare plans every year during the Open Enrollment Period.

Part D Premiums: \$15.50 - \$97.00 per month *premiums can also be higher if you have a late enrollment penalty or you have a higher income (IRMAA).

Deductibles, Copayments, and Coinsurance: The amount you pay for Part D deductibles, copayments, and/or coinsurance varies by plan. To compare plans visit Medicare.gov, call 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227), or call the Alaska Medicare Information Office (907) 269-3680.

Part D Late Enrollment Penalty: If you do not sign up for Part D when you are first eligible, or you drop Part D and then get it later, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part D. The late enrollment penalty is based on 1% of the national base beneficiary premium (\$33.19 in 2019) time the number of months you were eligible but did not join a Medicare Part D plan and went without other creditable drug coverage. The final amount is rounded to the nearest \$0.10 and added to your monthly premium.

Extra Help is an assistance program through Social Security that helps pay Part D drug plan costs. It is available for single people with annual income at or below \$23,016 and resources at or below \$14,100, or for married people with annual income at or below \$31,116 and resources at or below \$28,150. Apply at BenefitsCheckUp.org/Alaska or with the Alaska Medicare Information Office (907) 269-3680.

Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap)

Medigap policies are sold by private insurance companies to cover the "gaps" in Medicare. It is best to purchase a Medigap policy in the first 6 months of starting Medicare Part B (Medical) insurance. This 6-month period is called the Medigap Open Enrollment Period.

People that are eligible for retiree plans from their employer, union, TRICARE or Medicaid usually do not need Medicare supplement insurance.

Medigap insurance companies in Alaska sell standardized plans identified by the letters A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L, M, and N. Every company must sell Plan A (Basic Benefits). If the company offers any plan in addition to Plan A, it must be C or F. To compare plans from different companies, be sure they are the same letter. Then the benefits are the same; the difference will be the monthly cost (the premium).

Companies that offer Medigap plans in Alaska include:

1-800-523-5800	www.aarpmedicaresupplement.com
1-800-800-2254	www.colonialpenn.com
1-888-290-0616	www.achia.com
1-800-801-6831	www.globecaremedsupp.com
1-888-310-8482	www.humana.com
1-888-524-3629	www.iaclife.com
1-800-331-2512	www.libertynational.com
1-866-459-4272	www.loyalamerican.com
1-800-667-2937	www.mutualofomaha.com
1-800-508-4722	www.premera.com
1-800-654-9106	www.reservenational.com
1-866-855-1212	www.statefarm.com
1-800-331-2512	www2.unitedamerican.com
1-800-531-8722	www.usaa.com
	1-800-800-2254 1-888-290-0616 1-800-801-6831 1-888-310-8482 1-888-524-3629 1-800-331-2512 1-866-459-4272 1-800-667-2937 1-800-508-4722 1-800-654-9106 1-866-855-1212 1-800-331-2512

^{*}In Alaska, companies that sell Medigap policies to people under 65 are limited. Companies that will are marked with an asterisk (*). Upon reaching age 65, the beneficiary will have a 6-month Medigap Open Enrollment Period.