

## Call us

The Alaska **Senior Information Office** answers your questions about all aspects of Medicare.

Call us any time.

In AK: **1-800-478-6065**

In Anchorage: **(907) 269-3680**

If we can't take your call right away, leave us a message and we'll call you back.

Either the Anchorage office staff will help you, or there may be a volunteer in your community who can help you in person.

## VOLUNTEER

## We need volunteers!

Are you interested in helping your fellow Alaskans? The Senior Information Office can train you to help people:

- Find the best Medicare plans
- Understand billing statements
- Protect Medicare benefits by preventing fraud, waste and abuse

*Please call us if you would like to help.*

**1-800-478-6065**

## Senior Information Office

Alaska's Medicare Resource



Alaska Medicare Helpline

In AK: **1-800-478-6065**

In Anchorage: **(907) 269-3680**

Email: [hss.medicare@alaska.gov](mailto:hss.medicare@alaska.gov)



State of Alaska  
Department of Health & Social Services  
Senior and Disabilities Services  
3601 "C" Street, Suite 310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



[www.medicare.alaska.gov](http://www.medicare.alaska.gov)

Visit the U.S. Government Medicare website

[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

Helpful Medicare publications

*Enrolling in Medicare*

[www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11036.pdf](http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11036.pdf)

*Choosing a Medigap Policy*

[www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/02110.pdf](http://www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/02110.pdf)

## MEDICARE

Are you age **62? 63? 64?**

# Gear up for Medicare!



Medicare basics for Alaskans 62+  
or on Social Security Disability

## Senior Information Office

Alaska's Medicare Resource



[www.medicare.alaska.gov](http://www.medicare.alaska.gov)

## What is Medicare?

Medicare is health insurance for people who are age 65 and older, under age 65 with a disabling condition, or any age with end-stage renal disease.

### Medicare has several parts:

**Part A** (Hospital Insurance) covers hospital stays, some care in skilled nursing facilities and hospice.

**Part B** (Medical Insurance) covers medically necessary services like doctors' services, outpatient care and some preventive services.

**Part C** (Medicare Advantage) fee-for-service plans provide Part A and B through private companies.

**Part D** (Medicare Prescription Drug Plan) offers prescription drug coverage to everyone with Medicare.

**Medicare Supplement Insurance** (Medigap) is private insurance that covers costs not paid by Medicare.



## Do I have to sign up for Medicare?

**That depends!** Call the Social Security Administration **three months before you turn 65** to discuss your situation.

**WATCH OUT!** If you don't enroll when you first become eligible, you may face lifelong penalties.

If you or your spouse work beyond age 65 and have group health plan coverage based on that work, you may have an option to delay enrolling in Medicare.

If you have Tri-Care or AlaskaCare (the State of Alaska retiree health plan), you must sign up at age 65.

## When to sign up

**Part A & B:** When you turn 65, you have a seven-month initial enrollment period: the three months before your birthday month, your birthday month, and the three months after.

If you work past age 65 and have insurance through your employer, a special eight-month enrollment period will start the month your group health plan coverage ends (usually when you quit working.)

**Part D** enrollment is November 15 – December 31 each year.

To avoid permanent late-sign-up penalties, enroll when you become eligible (at age 65, or if you lose work-related group health plan prescription benefits.)

## How to sign up

### Medicare Part A and B

Enroll through your local **Social Security office**:

- **Anchorage/Ketchikan:** 271-4455, or 1-866-772-3081 toll-free
- **Fairbanks:** 456-5390, or 1-800-478-0391 toll-free
- **Juneau:** 586-7070, or 1-800-478-7124 toll-free
- **Nationwide:** 1-800-772-1213 toll-free  
TTY users, call 1-800-325-0778.

To sign up for retirement benefits at the same time, call or enroll online at **www.socialsecurity.gov**

If you miss your first enrollment period, your next chance for Parts A & B is January 1 – March 31 each year.

### Medicare Part D or other plans

Enroll through the Alaska **Senior Information Office**:

- **In AK:** 1-800-478-6065
- **In Anchorage:** (907) 269-3680
- **www.medicare.alaska.gov**