



**MPGROUP**  
NAVIGATE MEDICARE TOGETHER

Partnering with  
**benefitbay™**



# **WELCOME TO MEDICARE**

**The Ultimate Guide...**

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# WELCOME TO MEDICARE!

We are excited to assist you with your transition to your new health benefits.

You are here because your employer has established an ICHRA account on your behalf. ICHRA, or Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement is a new federal program introduced in 2020 that empowers employees to make their own healthcare decisions. The funds provided by your ICHRA account will reimburse you for monthly premiums associated with the benefit plans you select, including Medicare coverage.

## About MP Group

We are an independent Medicare insurance agency that works specifically with individuals transitioning into Medicare and ICHRA. Partnering with Benefitbay, we provide a seamless transition from your employer group plan to your Medicare benefits.

## How We Help

Our experienced Medicare insurance agents will help you navigate Medicare through education, enrollment assistance, and lifetime support. Our services are available at no cost and extend throughout your lifetime.

## Helpful Tools

To help you in your transition, we have created this Welcome to Medicare Kit to provide you with all the necessary steps for a seamless transition.

## Benefits of ICHRA and Medicare

Combining these programs empowers you with:

- Increased Options - You'll have more options available to you.
- Personal Choice - You have the freedom to pick the plans that best fit your healthcare needs.
- Purchasing Power - You have the funds to reimburse your monthly Medicare premiums for the plans you select.

## What if you don't sign up for Medicare?

Not enrolling in Medicare when first eligible could lead to delays in coverage and lifetime penalties.

*Note: You could delay enrollment in Medicare if you meet certain conditions that qualify for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). Contact your MP Group agent to discuss.*

## We're here for you.

We understand that change is never easy and there are complexities to this transition. Don't worry, you can count on us. Our years of experience have provided the path to a successful Medicare transition. MP Group's mission is to assist you along the way to create a stress-free transition to Medicare.

Let's get started!

*MP Group*



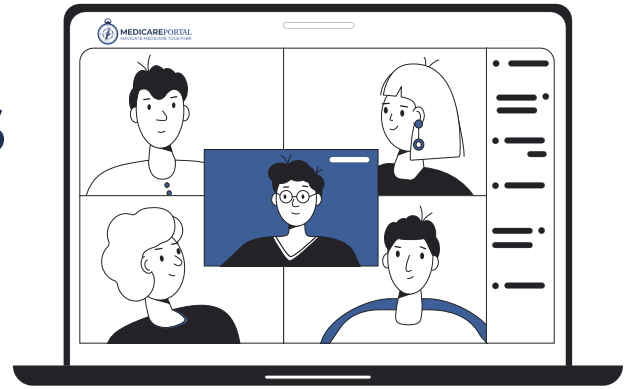
# YOUR STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL MEDICARE TRANSITION

We want your transition to Medicare to be a success - by following the three simple steps below, you'll be set!

- 1** Attend a Medicare educational webinar presented by MP Group. See the following page for webinar options.
- 2** Schedule an appointment with your dedicated MP Group agent.
- 3** Apply for your Medicare benefits.

*Note: To avoid late enrollment penalties and coverage gaps, we recommend you begin this process at least 90 days prior to your Medicare start date.*

# MP GROUP'S EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS



## Ready to learn about ICHRA and Medicare?

MP Group is offering two 20-minute complimentary educational webinars to better assist you in your transition to Medicare. Based on your current Medicare status, determine the option below that best fits your situation, and reach out to your company representative for the scheduled date and time.

### Medicare & ICHRA – New to Medicare

This webinar is intended for individuals who currently are not enrolled in Medicare or enrolled in Part A only or Part B only.

This webinar covers:

- The fundamentals of Medicare including Parts A, B, C, D, and Medicare supplement plans
- How Medicare and ICHRA work together
- Medicare enrollment periods
- ICHRA and Medicare costs
- Your next steps in this process

### Medicare & ICHRA – Continuing Your Medicare

This webinar is intended for individuals already enrolled in both Medicare Part A and B.

This webinar covers:

- How ICHRA and Medicare work together
- Medicare enrollment periods
- ICHRA and Medicare costs
- Your next steps when enrolling in supplemental benefits

# PAYING FOR YOUR MEDICARE BENEFITS

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If you're eligible for Medicare benefits, the federal government provides a recommendation on how you can pay your Medicare premiums.

### Medicare Billing

If you are paying for your benefits under Social Security:

Your Medicare Part B premiums will be automatically deducted from your monthly social security payment.

*Please note that once you begin paying out of your Social Security check, there is no change from this option.*

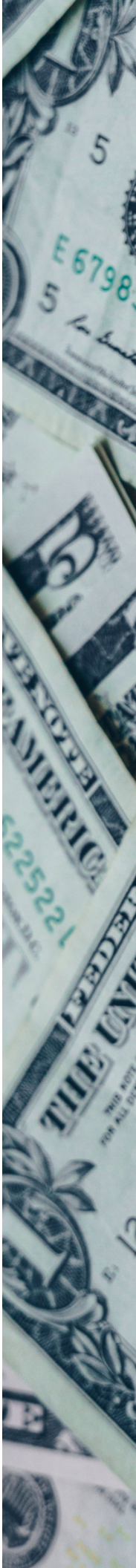
If you are paying Medicare directly:

If you are not currently receiving Social Security benefits, you will receive a bill in the mail for your Medicare premiums. You will need to update your payment information to your Benefitbay account.

### How do you pay your Medicare premiums?

Pay via Medicare Easy Pay using your Benefitbay payment account:

This is a free service that allows Social Security to automatically deduct your premium payments from your Benefitbay account on or about the 20th of each month. See the following page for Easy Pay instructions.



# EASY PAY

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### What is Easy Pay?

Medicare Easy Pay is a free and convenient way for you to pay your monthly Medicare premiums. By signing up for this service, your Medicare premiums will be automatically deducted by Social Security from your checking or savings account on or about the 20th of the month.

### How to sign up for Easy Pay using your Benefitbay payment account?

- 1** Create an account at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). Once logged in, select “My Premiums” and then “Sign up” to complete the online application.
- 2** If you're unable to set up an Easy Pay account online, contact your MP Group representative for assistance.

*NOTE: Easy Pay application can take 6-8 weeks in processing. We recommend that you submit this form as soon as you are approved for your Medicare Part B.*



## What happens once you enroll in Easy Pay?

The following two things will happen:

1. You will receive a statement confirming that your premium will be deducted from your account. Please pay attention to the right-hand upper corner saying "This is not a bill."
2. Your Medicare Part B premium will be deducted on or about the 20th of the month.

## What if you need to change bank accounts?

- If you have an existing online Medicare account, you can make changes online. Select "My Premiums" and then "See or Change My Medicare Easy Pay." Complete the form with your Benefitbay payment account information.
- If you do not have an online Medicare account, you must submit your changes on paper. Complete the "Authorization Agreement for Preauthorized Payments" form and follow the instructions.

*Note: Please allow up to 6-8 weeks for processing.*

If you have questions regarding your Medicare premium payments, please contact your Benefitbay representative.

Educate



Enroll



Experience

# IMPORTANT MEDICARE FORMS



## **CMS-40b Application for Enrollment in Medicare - Part B**

This form is required for Medicare enrollment in Part B.



## **CMS-L564 Request for Employment Information**

This form is required for proof of group healthcare coverage based on current employment.



## **CMS-500 Medicare Premium Bill**

This is a bill sent to individuals who pay Medicare directly for their Part A, Part B and/or Part D premiums.



## **SSA-44 Medicare IRMAA - Life-Changing Event**

This form is required to request a reduction in your IRMAA amount if you have had a life-changing event and your income has decreased.

\*To access and download a form, hover and click your mouse over the applicable box.



# LINKS AND RESOURCES

## MEDICARE RESOURCES

[Medicare.gov](#)  
[Medicare Easy Pay](#)  
[Medicare What's Covered](#)  
[Medicare Care Compare](#)

## SOCIAL SECURITY RESOURCES

[Social Security Administration](#)  
[SSA Locator](#)

## YOUR ICHRA AND MEDICARE PARTNERS

[Benefitbay](#)  
[MP Group](#)

\*To go directly to a page, hover and click your mouse over the applicable text.



# Medicare FAQ

## Am I automatically enrolled in Medicare when I turn 65?

To determine how to apply for Medicare Parts A and B depends on which scenario best applies to you:

- If you are already receiving Social Security Income (SSA) benefits, you are automatically enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B when you turn 65. You can expect to receive your new Medicare card in the mail a few months before your 65th birthday.
- If you are not currently receiving SSI benefits, you need to apply on your own for Parts A and B three (3) months before your 65th birthday.

## How do I sign up for Medicare when I am turning 65?

There are a number of different ways you can apply for Medicare Parts A and B:

- The recommended method is to apply through your [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) account. If you do not have an SSA account yet, it just takes a few minutes to set up.
- You can also apply for Parts A and B via paper application, which can be mailed or faxed to SSA. You would need to complete a Medicare 40B form that you can find in your Welcome to Medicare Kit.
- You can also apply over the phone, but you will have to call and make an appointment in the future.

## How do I sign up for Medicare Parts A and/or B if I am over 65?

You would need to apply to Medicare using a Special Enrollment Period. To complete this process, you will need to complete the following steps:

1. Complete the CMSL564 and Medicare 40B forms. Both can be found in your Welcome to Medicare Kit.
2. Once you have completed these, you can apply online using the Medicare Special Enrollment link (Recommended) or via mail or fax.

## How do I pay for Medicare Part B?

The recommended option is to pay through Medicare Easy Pay, where your premium would be deducted on or about the 20th of every month from your Benefitbay payment account (if not being deducted from Social Security). To set up Easy Pay, you need to create an account at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or contact your MP Group agent for guidance.

## What if I do not sign up for Part B?

Medicare Part B is optional. However, if you do not have access to large group employer insurance which would allow you to delay enrollment, you may face a penalty when you apply in the future. The Medicare late enrollment penalty for Part B is 10% for every 12 months you've gone without Part B coverage from when you were first eligible. This penalty lasts for the duration of your Medicare coverage.

## What does Medicare Part A cost?

If you or your spouse worked and paid Medicare taxes for a total of 40 quarters (10 years), you are eligible for premium-free Part A benefits. If you do not have enough working quarters, you would have to pay for your Medicare Part A benefits.

## Does my income affect my Medicare Part B and D premiums?

Yes, if your Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) from 2021 is over \$97,000 if filing as an individual, or over \$194,000 if filing jointly, you will pay more for your Medicare Parts B and D. However, if due to work stoppage or work reduction, your income in 2023 will be below 2021, you can file an appeal using an SSA-44 form.

## What Medicare premiums will my ICHRA plan cover?

Your Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Account (ICHRA) will cover your Medicare Part A, B, C and D premiums, as well as Medicare supplemental plans. Once you transition to Medicare, you will be responsible for copays, coinsurance and deductibles that your selected plans include.

## If I am already enrolled in Medicare, can I make a change in my benefits?

Your enrollment into the ICHRA plan will provide you with financial assistance with your premiums. However, this event does not qualify as a Special Enrollment Period. You can make changes during the Annual Enrollment Period, the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period, or if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. Please contact MP Group for an explanation of the various enrollment periods and how they relate to your situation.



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