



# Medicare Open Enrollment 2024



*New York StateWide  
Senior Action Council,*

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# Disclaimer

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# 2 Main Ways to Get Medicare Coverage

## Original Medicare:

- Get your health care through Medicare Parts A and B
- Can join separate drug plan to get Medicare drug coverage (also called Part D)
- Can see any doctor that takes Medicare anywhere in U.S.

## Medicare Advantage:

- Usually bundles health and drug coverage all in one plan
- May offer extra benefits that Original Medicare doesn't cover—like certain vision, hearing, and dental services
- In many cases, you can only use doctors in plan's network

# Medicare's Open Enrollment Period

- Runs October 15 – December 7 every year
- Opportunity to make changes to your prescription drug or health coverage options
- Time to compare your options to find the right plan for you

# Review Your Annual Notice of Change

Review your plan's Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) letter to learn about changes in 2024:

- Costs
- Benefits and coverage rules
- Drug formulary (list of covered drugs)
- Networks, including preferred pharmacies

# Open Enrollment: What You Can Do

- Join a new Medicare Advantage (MA) plan
- Join a new Part D prescription drug plan
- Switch from Original Medicare to MA
- Switch from MA to Original Medicare (with or without a Part D plan)
- Changes effective January 1, 2024

# Medicare Advantage Considerations

- Review a plan's estimated total costs to you, including premium, deductible, and other out-of-pocket costs
- Check if Medicare Advantage plans offer extra benefits, like vision, hearing, or dental coverage
- See if your health care providers are in a plan's network
- Check star ratings to see how Medicare and other people with Medicare rated the plan's care and services
- Understand how the plan works with other coverage you may have

# Medigap Policies

- Are sold by **private insurance companies**
- Fill **gaps in Original Medicare** coverage, like copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles
- Each **standardized** Medigap policy under the same plan letter:
  - Must offer the same basic benefits, no matter who sells it
  - May vary in costs
- Another type of Medigap policy called Medicare SELECT is available in some states
- Plans are different in Minnesota, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin



# Decision: Do I Need a Medigap Policy?

**It only works with Original Medicare, right?**

Yes.

**What if I have other supplemental coverage, like from an employer?**

You might not need Medigap.

**Can I afford Medicare deductibles and copayments?**

Weigh this against how much the monthly Medigap premium costs.

**What does the monthly Medigap premium cost?**

It can vary.

# Part D Considerations

- Look at the estimated total costs to you, including premium, deductible, and cost sharing
- Review the formulary to see if it covers your drugs
- Check to see if the plan has restrictions like prior authorization, step therapy, quantity limits
- See if your pharmacy is in the plan's preferred network or if mail order is available
- Check star ratings to see how the plan is rated
- Understand how the plan works with other coverage you may have

# Medicare Plan Finder

- Review and compare plans at [www.Medicare.gov/plan-compare](http://www.Medicare.gov/plan-compare)
- Find quality and customer service ratings from current plan members
- Manage a list of preferred pharmacies and prescriptions
- Costs and messages related to IRA improvements:
  - ❑ No more than \$35 copay per month supply of covered insulin
  - ❑ \$0 copays for covered ACIP vaccines
  - ❑ \$0 in the cost after coverage gap column for covered drugs
  - ❑ Expanded Extra Help program information and costs
- If you're happy with your current choice, you don't have to do anything
- If you choose a new option for 2024, you can enroll online

# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Improvements

## Insulin

If you have Medicare and take insulin, you'll pay no more than \$35 for a month's supply of each covered insulin. This includes people who have Medicare drug coverage (Part D) and all Part B covered insulins. Go to [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov), enter all your drugs, and make sure your plan still covers your insulin in 2024.

# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Improvements

## Vaccines

Part D now covers all recommended vaccines, including Shingles, at no cost to you. Talk to your doctor about which vaccines are right for you. This includes all vaccines are recommended by CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Improvements

## Help with Drug Costs

In 2024, people enrolled in Part D who have very high drug costs will get some relief. Once they reach a certain threshold on paying out-of-pocket costs – what we call the catastrophic phase – they will no longer have additional cost sharing or copays at the pharmacy.

# Medicare Plan Finder: \$0 Catastrophic Phase

## \$0 catastrophic phase cost sharing

- Visible via the Plan Details page > Estimated Drug Cost table
- People with Medicare see \$0 in the cost after coverage cap column for covered drugs

– [CVS PHARMACY #01501](#) - DRUG COSTS DURING COVERAGE PHASES

	Retail cost	Cost after deductible	Cost in coverage gap	Cost after coverage gap
Lantus 100unit/ml solution pen injector	\$431.76	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$0.00
Monthly totals	\$431.76	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$0.00

# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Provisions

- 2024: People with very high prescription drug costs will no longer pay once they reach the “catastrophic phase”
- 2025: All people with Medicare Part D will have a \$2,000 annual out-of-pocket cap on their drug costs
- 2025: Coverage gap is eliminated.
- 2026: Allows Medicare to negotiate the price of certain high-cost, brand name prescription drugs



# Medicare Savings Programs

- Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) can help eligible individuals pay for their Medicare premiums and other costs associated with Medicare
- MSPs are administered New York State Medicaid Office.
- You can apply for an MSP by calling 1-800-333-4114 through Medicare Rights Center.
- MSPs are authorized for 12-months
- New York State Medicaid Office mails renewal packets annually to assess ongoing eligibility

# Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS or Extra Help)

**A program to help people with limited income and resources pay for Medicare drug coverage costs**

- People with the lowest income and resources pay no premiums or deductible and small or no copayments
- People with slightly higher income and resources pay a reduced deductible and a little more out of pocket
- You won't enter the coverage gap or pay late enrollment penalty if you qualify
- If you reach catastrophic coverage limit (\$7,400) and have Extra Help, you'll generally pay nothing for covered drugs for the rest of the year

# Qualifying for Extra Help

## You automatically qualify for Extra Help if you get:

- Full Medicaid coverage (sometimes called “full dual”)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Help from Medicaid paying your Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) premium (Medicare Savings Program, sometimes called “partial dual”)

### To apply if you don't automatically qualify, contact:

- Social Security at [SSA.gov/benefits/medicare/prescriptionhelp.html](https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/prescriptionhelp.html) or 1-800-772-1213; TTY: 1-800-325-0778
- Your State Medical Assistance (Medicaid) office
- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at [shiphelp.org](https://shiphelp.org)

# 2023 Income & Resource Limits to Apply for Extra Help

Type of Limit	Individual (Per Year)	Married Couple (Per Year)
Income (below 135% for full and 150% for partial of the federal poverty level (FPL), based on family size)	\$19,683* (full) \$21,870* (partial)	\$26,622* (full) \$29,580* (partial)
Resources	\$9,090 (full) \$15,160 (partial)	\$13,630 (full) \$30,240 (partial)
Resources adjusted for burial expenses	\$10,590 (full) \$16,660 (partial)	\$16,630 (full) \$33,240 (partial)

\*Higher amounts for Alaska and Hawaii

# 2023 Extra Help Copayments

Situation	Generic/Brand-Name Copayment
Institutionalized Full-Benefit Dual Eligible; or Getting Home and Community-Based Services	\$0
Full-Benefit Dual Eligible with income <b>up to or at</b> 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL)	\$1.45/\$4.30
Full-Benefit Dual Eligible with income <b>greater than</b> 100% of the FPL	\$4.15/\$10.35
You get partial Extra Help	Same copayment* as full Extra Help

\* You also pay a \$104 deductible, and you pay 15% for each covered drug.

# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Improvements

## Help with Drug Costs

If you or someone you know is struggling with prescription drug costs, Extra Help is a Medicare program that can help pay for your Part D premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and other costs. Starting January 1, 2024, the program will expand to cover more drug costs for people with limited resources.

- People who qualify for Extra Help generally will pay no more than \$4.50 for each generic drug and \$11.20 for each brand-name drug.
- You'll see these lower costs on Medicare.gov when you compare plans for 2024.
- If you make less than \$22,000 a year (\$30,000 for married couples), it's worth it to apply.
- Learn more at Medicare.gov/ExtraHelp, or visit ssa.gov/extrahelp to apply online.
- You can also call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778.

# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Expands Extra Help Eligibility

- Expands eligibility for the full low-income subsidy (LIS) benefit (also known as “Extra Help”) to individuals with incomes up to 150% of the federal poverty level who meet eligibility criteria
- Beginning January 1, 2024, this change will provide the full low-income subsidy to those who currently qualify for the partial subsidy
- This implements section 11404 of the IRA and will improve access to affordable prescription drug coverage for approximately 300,000 low-income individuals with Medicare

# Beware of Marketing Fraud

**Medicare.gov and 1-800-MEDICARE are the official sources of Medicare information**

**Watch out for people who:**

- Pressure you to join their plan
- Say they represent Medicare or give you a service for free
- Call your home without permission
- Say that you'll lose your Medicare benefits if you don't sign up for their plan
- Require you to provide contact information at a plan event



# Resources

- [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov)
- **1-800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227)**
  - Available 24 hours a day, including weekends
  - Assist with comparing and enrolling in Medicare Advantage or Prescription Drug Plans and supporting ongoing insurance needs
  - If you need help in a language other than English or Spanish, let the customer service representative know
  - TTY 1-877-486-2048

# Resources

## ***Medicare & You*** Handbook

- Mailed to all Medicare households each fall
- Summarizes benefits, rights, and protections
- Lists of available health and drug plans
- Answers to frequently asked questions
- Electronically at [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov)
- Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese
- Braille, Large Print, Audio, eReader

# State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

SHIP is a national program that offers free, personalized health insurance counseling to people with Medicare, their families, and caregivers to help them make informed decisions about their care and benefits.

- ***Health Insurance & Information Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP)***
- Visit [Shiphelp.org](http://Shiphelp.org) for locations near you

**Questions?**

**Thank you!**

# Feedback

*Thank you for attending today's session. We appreciate your time. We are always trying to improve our level of service to our customers and stakeholders. You can help us do that by providing your feedback on today's session. Please take a few moments to complete this brief evaluation. Thank you very much.*

*Please use this name for the CMS Activity: **NY StateWide Senior Action Council Presentation.***

<https://cmsgov.force.com/act/Evaluation>

# Feedback

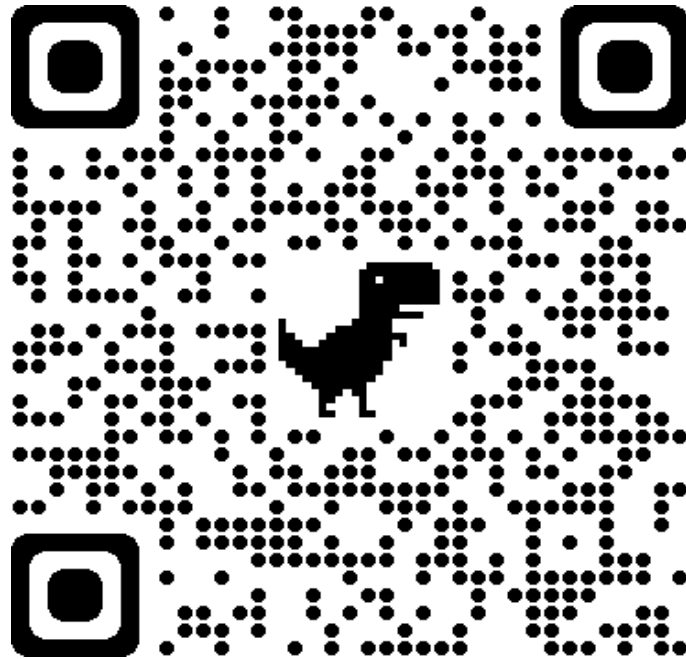


Image of a code that can be scanned to lead to the survey

# Contact Information

**Kathleen Otte, CMS Regional Administrator  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 18-710  
New York, New York 10278**

**[Kathleen.otte@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kathleen.otte@cms.hhs.gov)**