



Turning 65? Retiring?

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)

Decisions, Decisions....

You have several important decisions to make BEFORE you turn 65 or retire...

Should you...

- ☐ Enroll in Medicare Part A and/or Part B?
 - ☐ Join a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan (PDP)?
 - ☐ Buy Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policies?
 - ☐ Enroll in a Part C Medicare Advantage Plan (MA)?
 - ☐ Keep employer or retiree coverage?
 - ☐ Apply for COBRA benefits?
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TURNING 65

If you are no longer working and currently covered by; spouse's employer group plan, Covered CA, Medi-Cal, COBRA, or some other health insurance, you need to understand your Medicare enrollment options.

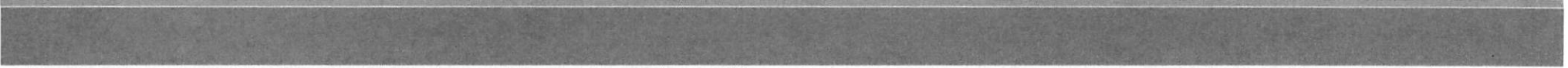
Your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP) lasts a total of seven (7) months, three (3) months leading up to your 65th birth month, the month of your birthdate and three (3) months after. You can enroll in Medicare Parts A, B, and D or A, B, and C (MA plan).

RETIRING

Set up an appointment with Social Security and your benefits department.

You have a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in Medicare Parts A, B & D if you are 65+ when you retire. You have a total of 8 months to sign up for Medicare Part B. However, if you have a break in creditable prescription drug coverage of more than 63 consecutive days, a Part D lifetime penalty may apply.

Pre-retirement Checklist

- ☐ Make an appointment with your Benefits Coordinator several months before your planned retirement date.
 - ☐ Learn what your retiree coverage choices are and how much it will cost you, so you can accurately compare it with calculated Medicare options.
 - ☐ Think about what you like and dislike about your current health insurance AND how additional family coverage may be affected will help you make your decision.
 - ☐ If you consider COBRA coverage, learn about the COBRA election period, your Part B enrollment period, and your Medigap Open Enrollment Period
 - ☐ Make an appointment with HICAP to learn about Medicare and review your options.
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Questions for Your Benefits Coordinator

- ☐ How many employees does your company have?
- ☐ Medicare works differently depending on the number of workers a company has?
- ☐ How does your employer/retiree coverage work with Medicare? What does it cost?
- ☐ How are prescription drugs covered? Often employer coverage can be better than Medicare Part D.
- ☐ Does your employer provide coverage for retirees? (Retiree coverage may be the same or different from employee coverage)
- ☐ Does retiree coverage include other family members?
- ☐ If you drop your employer coverage as a retiree, can you get it back? Most won't let you come back if you drop it.

Protect Yourself from Fraud, Waste & Abuse

- ☐ Protect your Medicare number and your Social Security number.
 - ☐ Remember that nothing is ever free; be weary!
 - ☐ Ask questions. You have a right to know everything about your medical care including the cost billed to Medicare.
 - ☐ Educate yourself about Medicare. Know your rights and know what a provider can and can't bill to Medicare.
 - ☐ Record all your doctor's appointments and check your Medicare statements.
 - ☐ Understand how a Medicare health or drug plan works before you join.
 - ☐ Check your pills before you leave the pharmacy to make sure you received the correct medication and amounts.
 - ☐ Report suspected instances of fraud or abuse.
 - ☐ Review your Medicare summary notices MSN or claim statements from your Medicare plan for errors.
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This project is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$363,309 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.