

Call us

Alaska's Medicare Information Office answers your questions about all aspects of Medicare.

In Alaska: **800-478-6065**

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

Call us any time.

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 counselor in your community who can help you in person.

VOLUNTEER

Can you help out during weekdays?

Are you interested in helping your fellow Alaskans?

The Medicare 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

Help with costs

You may be eligible for programs to help pay for prescriptions and for the monthly Part B premium. For people with limited incomes, Medicare can cover up to 75 percent of medication costs.

It doesn't hurt to ask – call us and we'll help you apply or go online to:

www.benefitscheckup.org/alaska

Our services are free.
Donations are welcome at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center for its Medicare Counseling site.

Medicare Information Office

800-478-6065 in Alaska

907-269-3680 in Anchorage

hss.medicare@alaska.gov



State of Alaska
Department of Health & Social Services
Division of
Senior and Disabilities Services
Anchorage, Alaska



www.medicare.alaska.gov

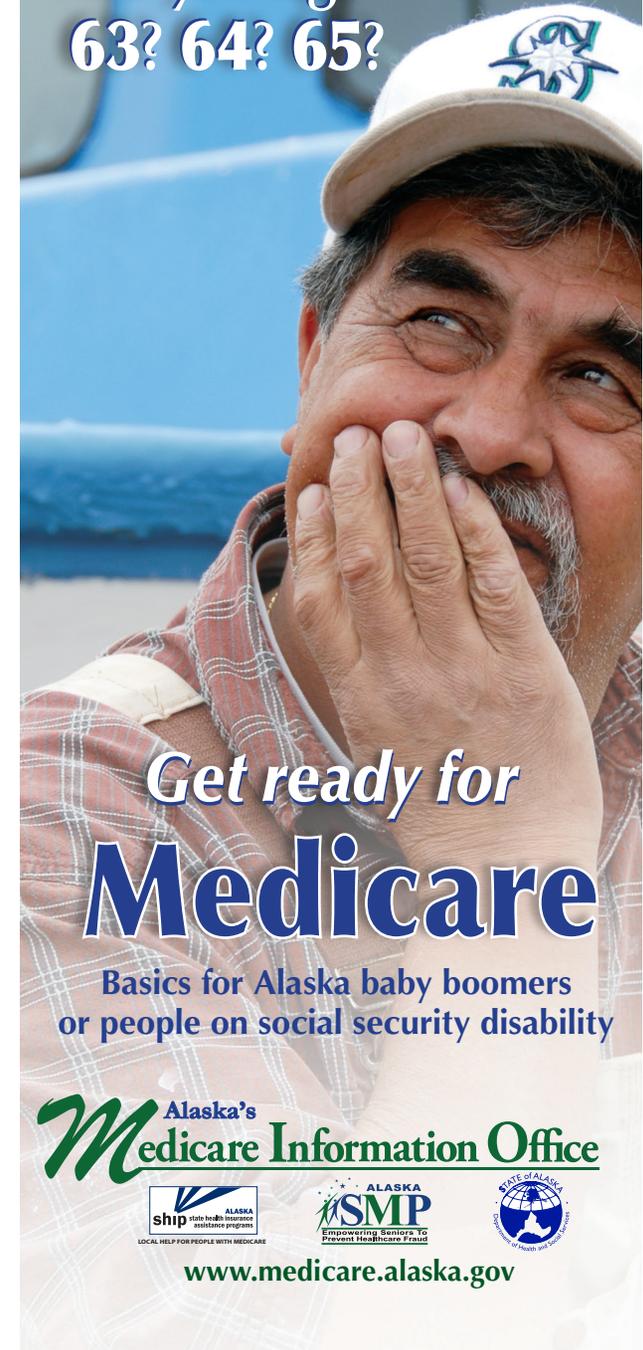
Medicare.gov

The official U.S. government site for Medicare:

- find out what benefits Medicare covers
 - get the latest **Medicare & You** handbook
 - find dozens of Medicare-specific publications
 - compare drug plans and health plans
 - find Medicare-approved doctors and suppliers
- ... and much, much more.

MEDICARE

Are you age
63? 64? 65?



Get ready for
Medicare

Basics for Alaska baby boomers
or people on social security disability

Alaska's
Medicare Information Office



www.medicare.alaska.gov

What is Medicare?

Medicare is health insurance for people who are age 65 and older, under age 65 with disabilities, or any age with end-stage renal disease or Lou Gehrig's disease.

Medicare has several parts:

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

Part B (Medical Insurance) covers medically necessary services like doctors' visits, preventive services, and medical equipment.

Part C (Medicare Advantage) fee-for-service, HMO/PPOs providing Parts A, B and D. None available in Alaska in 2014.

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

Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) is private insurance with policies that help cover some of the costs for Part A and B services after Medicare pays.



When to sign up

Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)

Parts A & B & D: 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 (*not everyone needs Part D*).

Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

If you or your spouse work past age 65 and have insurance through that employment, you can delay enrolling in part A and/or B. You can sign up while still working or during the 8-month period that begins the month after the employment or the group health plan coverage ends, whichever is first.

General Enrollment Period (GEP)

If you miss your initial enrollment period and don't have a special enrollment period, your next chance to enroll in Medicare Part A & B is between January 1-March 31.

(Coverage begins July 1 and you may be penalized)

Do I have to sign up for Medicare?

Most retiree plans such as **TRICARE for Life** or **AlaskaCare** require Medicare A & B enrollment at 65 because Medicare becomes the primary payer.

Federal retirees, veterans and tribal beneficiaries may have options. Check your benefits booklet or office.

How to sign up

Medicare Parts A & B, apply through Social Security

- **online at www.ssa.gov**

OR

- **by national phone line**

Speak to a Social Security representative
7 a.m - 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

800-772-1213 toll-free

TTY users call 800-325-0778

OR

- **at your local office:**

Social Security Anchorage Office

222 W. Eighth Ave.

Anchorage, AK 99513

(Corner of Eighth and C St. in the Federal Building Annex)

Social Security Fairbanks Office

800-478-0391 toll-free

Social Security Juneau Office

800-478-7124 toll-free

Medicare Part D or other plans

We can help you find the most cost effective prescription drug coverage.

Call us! 269-3680 or 800-478-6065

OR use the drug plan comparison tool.
at **www.medicare.gov**

You will need your red, white and blue Medicare card handy and a list of your medications with dosage and quantity.