

MEDICARE – Part D Prescription Drug Coverage 2017 Alaska Options

Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 is the Medicare Part D Open

Enrollment Period. This is the ideal time for all people on Medicare to consider whether they have the best prescription drug coverage available for the following year. Other times to enroll in Part D are: when you are first eligible for Medicare and join during your Initial Enrollment Period (the 7 months around your birthday month, or the 25th month of receiving a Social Security Disability Insurance benefit), during a Special Enrollment Period such as when you've lost creditable prescription coverage from an employer or union, you've moved from your service area, or you moved into or out of (or currently live in) a long term care facility.

What is the "best plan?" The plan that:

1. covers your prescriptions on the plan's formulary (list of covered medications);
2. works with your pharmacy;
3. offers the lowest cost on your medications.

All Part D plans have a fixed monthly premium. Medicare beneficiaries may pay a deductible and pay a co-payment cost at the pharmacy, or to the plan if using their mail-order service.

Since your medication needs may vary each year and the plan's pricing and formulary can change, you'll want to be sure to compare what will be available next year with your current coverage during the Open Enrollment Period. You can use medicare.gov or check with the plan you are in to see whether your medications will be covered next year.

Part D Benefit Periods

1. Initial Deductible Period: the beneficiary pays 100% of prescription costs until the deductible is met (not all plans have a \$400 deductible).
2. Initial Coverage Period: the cost of covered drugs is shared, 25% by the beneficiary and 75% by the plan.
3. Coverage Gap (donut hole) Period: once the beneficiary and plan have paid \$3,700 for the year, the beneficiary pays 51% for generic and 40% for brand-name drugs until they have spent \$3,725.
4. Catastrophic Benefit Period: the beneficiary pays a copay of \$3.30 per generic and \$8.25 for brand-name drugs (or 5% of the drug's total cost, whichever is greater).

Late Enrollment Penalty

A beneficiary who doesn't sign up for Part D within their Initial Enrollment Period and doesn't have other creditable drug coverage may be subjected to a Late Enrollment Penalty if they enroll in a Part D plan later.

The penalty is calculated by taking 1% of Medicare's base beneficiary premium for Part D and multiplying it by the number of full months that the beneficiary did not have Part D or other creditable drug coverage. That amount is rounded to the nearest \$0.10 and added to the monthly premium of a Part D plan. The base premium may increase each year, so the penalty amount may increase each year also.

For 2017, the base premium for Part D is **\$35.63**.

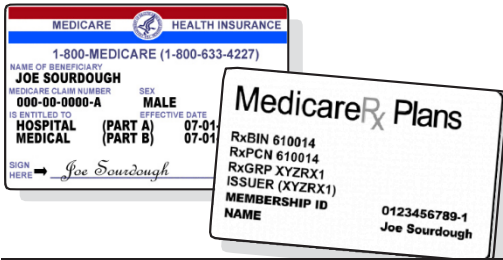
Alaska's
Medicare Information Office



Anchorage: **907.269.3680**

Toll-free statewide: **800-478-6065**

Online: **medicare.alaska.gov**



2017 Alaska Medicare Part D Options

Choosing a Medicare Drug Plan can be confusing. We are here to assist you with all your Medicare questions. If you call us, please have your Medicare card and a list of your prescriptions available. Call (907) 269-3680 in Anchorage or 1-800-478-6065 Alaska statewide.

PLAN Name & Contract ID	Company Name & Phone Number	With Extra Help or Medicaid	Monthly Premium	Annual Deductible
Aetna Medicare Rx Saver (5810-68)	Aetna Medicare 1-800-832-2640		\$38.40	\$400.00
Cigna-HealthSpring Rx Secure (S5617-227)	Cigna-HealthSpring Rx 1-800-222-6700	YES	\$17.90	\$400.00
Cigna-HealthSpring Rx Secure-Extra (S5617-279)	Cigna-HealthSpring Rx 1-800-222-6700		\$50.60	\$50.00
EnvisionRxPlus Silver (S7694-34)	EnvisionRx Plus 1-866-250-2005	YES	\$35.70	\$400.00
Express Scripts Medicare – Choice (S5660-204)	Express Scripts Medicare 1-866-477-5704		\$88.50	\$350.00
Express Scripts Medicare – Value (S5660-136)	Express Scripts Medicare 1-866-477-5704		\$50.00	\$400.00
First Health Part D Premier Plus (S5768-196)	First Health Part D 1-877-815-8163		\$108.30	\$0.00
First Health Part D Value Plus (S5768-197)	First Health Part D 1-877-815-8163		\$59.80	\$0.00
Humana Enhanced (S5884-94)	Humana Insurance Co. 1-866-205-0000		\$70.40	\$0.00
Humana Preferred Rx Plan (S5884-116)	Humana Insurance Co. 1-866-205-0000	YES	\$26.80	\$400.00
Humana Walmart Rx Plan (S5884-180)	Humana Insurance Co. 1-866-205-0000		\$17.00	\$400.00
SilverScript Choice (S5601-68)	Silverscript Health 1-866-235-5660		\$54.40	\$400.00
AARP Medicare Rx Preferred (S5820-33)	UnitedHealthcare 1-888-857-5564		\$74.70	\$0.00
AARP MedicareRx Saver Plus (S5921-377)	UnitedHealthcare 1-888-867-5564	YES	\$36.10	\$400.00
AARP MedicareRx Walgreens (S0522-77)	United Healthcare 1-888-857-5564		\$22.40	\$400.00
Symphonix Value Rx (S0522-47)	United Healthcare 1-888-857-5564		\$39.40	\$400.00
WellCare Classic (S4802-96)	WellCare 1-888-293-5151	YES	\$34.50	\$400.00
WellCare Extra (S4802-130)	WellCare 1-888-293-5151		\$77.50	\$0.00

Do you qualify for Extra Help?

If you meet certain income and resource limits, you may qualify for Extra Help from Medicare to pay the costs of Medicare prescription drug coverage. You qualify automatically if you are on Medicaid, SSI, or the Medicare Savings Program. If not, see if you may meet the income and asset levels below. You may qualify for Extra Help if:

- you are single and your monthly gross income is less than \$1,903 and you have no more than \$13,820 in assets (don't count the value of your own home or car).
- you are married and your monthly gross income as a couple is less than \$2,556 and you have no more than \$27,600 in assets (not counting your own home or car).

You can apply online for Extra Help at www.benefitscheckup.org/alaska, or you can call Alaska's Medicare Information Office to apply by telephone by calling (907) 269-3680, or 1-800-478-6065 statewide.