

Frequently Asked Questions

For Physicians and Spouses becoming eligible for Medicare during 2026

You're approaching age 65 and/or retirement, and you have questions. In a series of informational videos at www.ismaia.com/videos, we provide answers. You may also find the following list of frequently asked questions and responses helpful.

When will my Medicare coverage start?

If you're self-employed, receive health insurance through an employer with fewer than 20 full-time employees, or are retired, your Medicare coverage will start on the first day of the month in which you attain age 65; unless your birth date falls on the first day of the month, in which case your Medicare coverage will start on the first day of the month prior. If you receive health insurance from an employer with 20 or more full-time employees, you'll typically start Medicare Parts A and B when you end your employment or elect to waive coverage through your employer.

What do I need to do to apply for Medicare?

You can apply for Medicare 3 months before you turn age 65. Go online to <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/> or call Social Security at (800) 772-1213. (If you're currently insured through ISMA, we'll send a letter to remind you.) If Medicare will be your primary insurance, you should apply for Medicare Parts A and B.

How will my health insurance change when Medicare becomes my primary insurance and what will it cost me?

Instead of your current medical insurance policy with Anthem, you will have:

Medicare Part A: Part A is hospital insurance that helps cover inpatient care in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, hospice, and home health care. Most people do not pay a monthly premium for Medicare Part A because they essentially prepaid via Medicare taxes while working. They or a spouse has at least 40 employment quarters (equal to 10 years of work).

Medicare Part B: After you pay the Part B deductible of \$288, Medicare covers about 80% of charges for things like doctors' services, outpatient care, home health services and other medical services. Part B also covers some preventive services. You will pay a monthly premium for Medicare Part B plus, in most cases, an income related monthly adjustment amount surcharge (see chart on next page.)

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan: Medicare prescription drug coverage is insurance through an insurance company or other private company approved by Medicare. If you do

not enroll in a Medicare Part D Plan within 3 months of turning 65, you may pay a late enrollment penalty when you do enroll, unless you waited because you received creditable drug coverage through a large employer health plan. Most people will pay about \$15 to \$50 per month for a Medicare Part D Plan.

What is the Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA)?

IRMAA is an acronym for Medicare's income-related monthly adjustment amount. This is a higher premium charged by Medicare for Part B and Part D to individuals with higher incomes.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) makes the determination about whether you're subject to IRMAA based on the income you reported in your federal tax return two years ago.

2026 Projected IRMAA Brackets and Surcharges for Medicare Part B with IRMAA Adjustment

Beneficiaries who file individual tax returns with 2024 modified gross income:	Beneficiaries who file joint tax returns with 2024 modified gross income:	PART B* You pay each month in 2026	PART D You pay each month in 2026
Less than or equal to \$109,000	Less than or equal to \$218,000	\$206.50	Your plan premium
Above \$109,000 up to \$137,000	Above \$218,000 up to \$274,000	\$289.10	Your plan premium + \$13.70
Above \$137,000 up to \$171,000	Above \$274,000 up to \$342,000	\$413.00	Your plan premium + \$35.30
Above \$171,000 up to \$205,000	Above \$342,000 up to \$410,000	\$536.90	Your plan premium + \$60.40
Above \$205,000 up to \$500,000	Above \$410,000 up to \$750,000	\$660.80	Your plan premium + \$83.30
More than \$500,000	More than \$750,000	\$702.10	Your plan premium + \$91.00

*The above PART B monthly premiums include Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAA)

When you retire and your income goes down, you should contact Social Security to request Form SSA-44 Medicare Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount Life Changing Event. The life changing event will be "work stoppage" or work reduction.

Which Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan does ISMA recommend?

Because different plans cover different lists of prescription drugs at different levels of benefits, there is no "one-size fits all" plan. We suggest you go to www.medicare.gov and follow the prompts in the Medicare Plan Finder tool to obtain a list of plans that cover your prescriptions. We can provide you with step-by-step instructions. You can apply for a Medicare Part D Plan about 3 months before you turn 65. You can also switch plans during the annual open-enrollment period, which runs from Oct. 15th through Dec. 7th.

What is the ISMA-sponsored Medicare Supplement?

The ISMA-sponsored Medicare Supplement is a plan designed for ISMA physicians and their spouses on Medicare. The plan pays health care costs not covered by Original Medicare such as deductibles, co-payments and coinsurance, and health care when traveling outside the U.S. It's similar to the standard Medigap Plan G with the addition of 1) Silver Sneakers (a free gym membership), and 2) vision benefits. It's competitively priced.

I work for an employer with more than 20 employees. Can I delay enrolling in Medicare and continue contributing to my Health Savings Account (HSA)?

If your employer has 20 or more employees, and you have not applied for Social Security, you have the right to postpone applying for Medicare and therefore can continue to contribute to your HSA until you stop working. There is no penalty for this delay. When your employment ends, you are entitled to a special enrollment period to sign up for Medicare.

If I retire after the age of 65, can I continue to contribute to my HSA until I am enrolled in Medicare?

You can contribute to your HSA as long as you do not enroll in Part A or Part B. When you do enroll after the age of 65, Part A coverage will be backdated by 6 months. To avoid a tax penalty, you should stop contributing to your HSA at least six months before you apply for Medicare. Consult with your financial advisor once your retirement date has been determined.

If I have a Health Savings Account (HSA), what happens when I turn 65?

Once you enroll in Medicare Part A, you may no longer contribute to your HSA. Your maximum contribution and your catch-up contribution for that calendar year will be prorated based on the number of months you were eligible to contribute. (If you have already fully funded your HSA for the year in which you turn 65, to avoid potential tax consequences you should write your HSA administrator to request a withdrawal of the overfunded amount and any interest earned by the amount overfunded for that year.)

EXAMPLE: You and your spouse are enrolled in an HSA-qualified High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) and have a Family HSA. Your spouse is two years younger than you. You attain age 65 on May 15 and become eligible for Medicare on May 1. Therefore, you can contribute to your HSA for January 1 through April 30, which is 4 months. The 2024 HSA contribution limit for a Family is \$8,300; you can contribute 4/12 of this amount, which is \$2,766. The 2024 catch-up contribution limit is \$1,000; you can contribute 4/12 of this amount, which is \$333. This produces a total maximum contribution of \$3,099.

If my spouse and I have an HSA, can my spouse make contributions after I turn 65?

If your spouse opens a separate Health Savings Account (HSA) in their own name, HSA contributions are allowed until your spouse enrolls in Part A or Part B. As long as a spouse is enrolled in an HSA qualified High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP), they are eligible to make a prorated contribution based on the number of months remaining in the calendar year when the HSA is opened. If your spouse is between the ages of 55-64, a prorated 2024 catch-up contribution of \$1,000 is allowed.

EXAMPLE: You and your spouse are enrolled in an HSA-qualified High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) and have a Family HSA. Your spouse is two years younger than you. You attain age 65

on May 15 and become eligible for Medicare on May 1. Your spouse can open a separate HSA starting May 1 and contribute to that HSA for May 1 through December 31, which is 8 months. The 2024 HSA contribution limit for a Single is \$4,150. Your spouse can contribute 8/12 of this amount, which is \$2,766. The 2024 catch-up contribution limit is \$1,000. Your spouse can contribute 8/12 of this amount, which is \$667. This produces a total maximum contribution of \$3,433.

If I have a Health Savings Account (HSA), how are disbursements taxed after I turn 65?

You can continue to use your HSA account tax-free for eligible out-of-pocket expenses. For a list of qualified expenses, search online for IRS Publication 502 Medical and Dental Expenses.

When your Medicare coverage takes effect, you can use HSA funds on a tax-free basis to pay for Medicare Part B premiums, Medicare Part D premiums, deductibles and copays, qualified long-term care insurance premiums, and COBRA premiums (but not for Medicare Supplement premiums).

You can use HSA funds for non-medical reasons. The amount withdrawn will be taxable as income but is not subject to penalties. If tax advice is required, you should seek the services of a professional.