

A Medicare Planning Checklist for Women



Stay proactive and confident as you approach Medicare.

Use this checklist to stay proactive and confident as you approach Medicare:

Confirm your Medicare eligibility date

Know when your Initial Enrollment Period begins (typically three months before your 65th birthday).

Review your current health coverage

Determine whether you'll be transitioning from employer coverage, a spouse's plan, or private insurance.

Decide between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage

Consider flexibility, provider choice, travel needs, and ongoing medical care.

Plan for out-of-pocket healthcare costs

Account for premiums, deductibles, copayments, and prescriptions in your retirement budget.

Understand prescription drug coverage (Part D)

Evaluate your medication needs and how the new out-of-pocket cap may affect your costs.

Evaluate long-term care exposure

Medicare does not cover most long-term care—consider how this risk fits into your overall plan.

Coordinate Medicare with your HSA strategy

Know when to stop HSA contributions and how to use existing HSA funds tax-efficiently.

Review income-based premium surcharges (IRMAA)

Higher income in retirement can increase Medicare premiums—planning ahead can help reduce surprises.

Revisit your plan annually

Healthcare needs and plan options change—review coverage during open enrollment each year.