

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.