



Understanding Medicare Enrollment Periods

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Medicare can sometimes seem like a confusing maze of requirements and deadlines. This tip sheet is designed to help you navigate enrollment in the different parts of Medicare, including who can sign up, when you can sign up, and how the timing can affect your costs.

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Please note - there are changes.... Many are explained in Medicare & You 2011

How Do You Get Medicare Part A and Part B?

Many People Automatically Get Medicare Part A and Part B

If you're already collecting benefits from Social Security or the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), you will automatically get Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance). If you get Part B automatically and you don't want to keep it, you must follow Medicare's directions to let Medicare know you don't want it. Otherwise, you'll be charged the Part B premium.

If This Describes You	Here's When You Automatically Get Part A and Part B
You're collecting retirement benefits from Social Security or RRB.	Starting the first day of the month you turn age 65.
You get disability benefits from Social Security or certain disability benefits from the RRB.	Starting the first day of the 25th month after your Social Security or RRB benefits begin.
You have ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also called Lou Gehrig's disease).	Starting the first day of the month your Social Security or RRB disability benefits begin.
Note: If you live in Puerto Rico, and you want Part B, you need to sign up for it. Contact your local Social Security office for more information. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to find your local office. TTY users call 1-800-325-0778.	

