



Understanding Medicare Enrollment Periods

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Knowing when you can get Medicare can sometimes be confusing. This tip sheet is designed to help you learn more about 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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How Do You Get Medicare Part A and Part B?

Many People Automatically Get Medicare Part A and Part B

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

If This Describes You	Here's When You Automatically Get Part A and Part B
You collect Social Security or RRB retirement benefits .	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.
Your disability is 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 should call 1-800-325-0778. You can also visit www.socialsecurity.gov and select "Find a Social Security Office."	