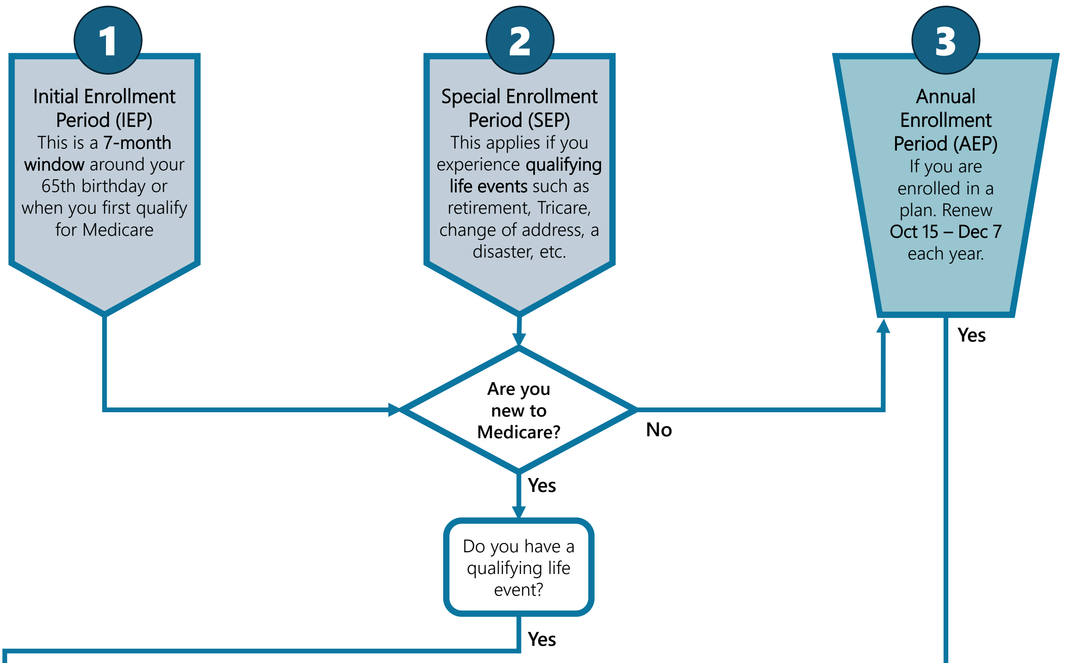
Selecting a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan

TRANSITIONS Benefit Group

Understanding Enrollment Periods



Determine Eligibility

- **Medicare Enrollment:** Must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and/or Part B.[1] [2] [3]
- **Residency:** Live in the service area of the plan.
- **Age Requirement:** Typically, must be 65 years or older, though individuals under 65 with qualifying disabilities may be eligible.
- **Enrollment Periods:** Must enroll during designated periods, such as Initial, Special, [4] or Annual Enrollment periods.
- **Other Coverage Considerations:** Individuals with other prescription drug coverage must confirm eligibility and possible coordination of benefits before enrolling.

Enrollment Steps

- Go to Medicare.gov: Website, Video, Step-by-step Instructions (with screenshots)
- Create a login:
- **Enter your medications:** Be sure to have your medications available. You will need to indicated dosage (ex: mg), medicine type (tablet, capsule, injection, etc.), times take per day.
- **Select your pharmacy:**
  Pharmacy Network Considerations
  - **Preferred vs. Non-Preferred Pharmacies:** Using a preferred pharmacy can significantly reduce costs compared to non-preferred pharmacies.
  - **Mail-Order Options:** Some plans offer discounted rates for Tier 3 and above medications through mail-order services.
- **Confirm any special considerations on your medications:**
  Formulary Restrictions
  - **Plan-Specific Coverage:** Not all Medicare drug plans cover the same Tier 3 and above medications. Always check the plan's formulary to ensure your medication is included.
  - **Prior Authorization:** Some Tier 3 and above drugs require approval from the plan before coverage kicks in.
  - **Step-Therapy**: You may need to try lower-tier alternatives before being approved for a higher-tier medication.
- Enroll in plan of your choice

Then What???

Once you've enrolled in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, your carrier (the insurance company offering the plan) will typically provide the following:

Welcome Materials
- Confirmation of enrollment and your Member ID card
- A Welcome Packet with details about your coverage, including how to access services and contact customer support

Plan Documents
- **Evidence of Coverage (EOC):** A comprehensive guide to your benefits, costs, and rights under the plan
- **Formulary (Drug List):** A list of covered medications, including any restrictions like prior authorization or quantity limits

Pharmacy Network Access
- Information about preferred and standard pharmacies in your network
- Details on mail-order options for convenience and potential savings

Cost Information
- Explanation of copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles
- Tools and resources to help you manage your drug costs across different coverage phases
- Details about the **Medicare Prescription Payment Plan (M3P)** with a breakdown of how your monthly payments are calculated, if you reach the **$2,400** out-of-pocket cap early and resources to help you decide if M3P is a good fit for your financial situation

Member Services
- Access to customer service representatives for help with claims, coverage questions, or appeals
- Some plans offer 24/7 support or dedicated pharmacists for medication reviews

Extra Support (if applicable)
- Programs for medication therapy management (MTM) if you take multiple drugs for chronic conditions
- Resources for low-income assistance or help applying for Extra Help from Medicare

[1] Medicare Part A & B OR Part A ONLY enrollment instructions
[2] Medicare Part B enrollment instructions
[3] CMS L-564 Verification of Coverage form