RETIREMENT JOE

Medicare 101

Your 2026 cheat sheet. Start with your life, then compare your options.

Let’s start your Medicare conversation today.

1 Know your A, B, C and D

A Hospital coverage

Premium: $0 for most people; otherwise $311 or $565 monthly.
Hospital deductible: $1,736 per benefit period. [1]

B Medical coverage

Standard premium: $202.90 per month.
Annual deductible: $283.
Then you usually pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount. [1, 4]

C Medicare Advantage

A private plan for your Part A and Part B benefits. Most plans include Part D drug coverage. [4]

D Prescription coverage

Deductible: up to $615 in 2026.
Covered Part D drugs: **$2,100 annual out-of-pocket limit.** Premiums excluded. [2]

Higher income or late enrollment penalties may increase premiums. A Part A benefit period is not a calendar year; the hospital deductible may apply more than once. [1]

2 Compare access and costs [3, 4]

Original Medicare + Medigap Parts A and B, plus a supplement	Medicare Advantage Part C
Doctors and hospitals Use providers who accept Medicare nationwide. Referrals usually are not needed. Medicare SELECT policies have network rules.	**Doctors and hospitals** Networks and referral rules vary. Nonemergency care outside the network may cost more or be excluded.
Monthly premiums Pay Part B, a Medigap premium and any separate Part D plan premium.	**Monthly premiums** Pay Part B and any plan premium. A $0 plan premium does not mean $0 health care costs.
Costs when you need care Original Medicare has no annual limit on your out-of-pocket medical costs. Medigap helps pay some remaining costs; benefits vary by policy.	**Costs when you need care** The plan limits annual costs for covered Part A and Part B services. Premiums and Part D costs do not count toward this limit.

2026 figures. Coverage details, sources and fillable comparison notes continue on page 2.

RETIREMENT JOE

Make the choice fit you.

Educate. Empower. Retire with confidence.

Original Medicare + Medigap Parts A and B, plus a supplement	Medicare Advantage Part C
Prescriptions and extra benefits Medigap does not include Part D. You can add a separate drug plan. Routine dental, vision and hearing care generally are not covered.	**Prescriptions and extra benefits** Most include Part D. Dental, vision and hearing benefits may be offered. Check drugs, pharmacies, copays and limits.
Approvals for care Usually no prior authorization for Original Medicare. Coverage rules apply.	**Approvals for care** Plan approval may be needed before some services or supplies are covered.
Travel outside the United States Foreign care generally is not covered. Some Medigap policies include limited emergency coverage abroad.	**Travel outside the United States** Foreign care generally is not covered. Some plans add emergency or urgent care abroad with limits.

Before switching Medigap [3, 5]

Your federal Medigap Open Enrollment Period lasts 6 months, starting the first month you have Part B and are 65 or older. Later, health questions or denial may apply unless federal or state protections apply. Annual Medicare Open Enrollment is different.

Budget beyond Medicare [6]

Most ongoing help with bathing or dressing is not covered. Also plan for uncovered dental, vision and hearing care, family costs during illness, and final expenses.

3 Your comparison notes

Original + Medigap: monthly premiums ($)

Medicare Advantage: monthly premiums ($)

Medigap and Part D plan names

Annual in-network medical limit ($)

Questions to ask Joe. Consider doctors, prescriptions, travel and total yearly cost.

Questions? Talk with Retirement Joe.
Joe Garcia | 269-903-2510 | retirementjoeoursmg.com

Sources [3, 4 also support the comparison above]:
[1] CMS 2026 A/B costs [2] Part D costs [3] Medigap guide [4] Coverage options [5] Enrollment [6] Long-term care

Educational guide. Costs and benefits vary by plan and location. Not affiliated with or endorsed by Medicare or any government agency. Information checked October 18, 2026.