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Senior Living



MEDICARE PART D IN 2027:
Why You Should Review Your Coverage

Having a Medicare Part D plan does not mean you should automatically keep the same coverage for 2027. Plans can change from year to year, and your medications and health needs can change, too.

Medicare open enrollment runs from October 15 through December 7. During this time, you can review your coverage and decide whether your current plan still meets your needs.

You do not have to figure everything out on your own. Medicare resources and qualified advisors can help with plan questions. Your pharmacist and health care providers can help with medication-related questions.

Medicare Parts: The Basics

Medicare has different parts that cover different types of care:

Part A helps cover inpatient hospital care and certain other services.

Part B helps cover physician services, outpatient care, certain medical equipment, and preventive services.

Medicare Advantage, or **Part C**, is coverage offered by Medicare-approved private companies. Many Medicare Advantage plans include prescription drug coverage.

Part D helps cover prescription medications. If you have Original Medicare and want Part D coverage, you generally need to enroll in a separate prescription drug plan.

During open enrollment, the most important questions are whether your medications will still be covered in 2027 and what you may pay for them.

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Why You Should Review Your Plan Every Year

Even if you are happy with your current coverage, do not assume everything will stay the same.

A plan may change its:

- Monthly premium
- Deductible
- List of covered medications
- Medication costs
- Drug tiers
- Pharmacy or provider networks
- Prior authorization and other coverage requirements

Your own needs may have changed, too. A new diagnosis, prescription, physician, or preferred pharmacy could affect whether your current plan is still a good fit.

Start with the medications you take today. Ask:

- Are all my medications still covered?
- Has any medication moved to a different drug tier?
- Does a medication now require prior authorization?
- Have my prescription costs changed?
- Is my pharmacy still in the plan's network?
- Are my physicians and other health care providers still in network?

Answering these questions can help you decide whether your current coverage still fits your needs.

What Is Changing in 2027?

Several Medicare Part D changes may affect your costs and coverage in 2027. The effect will depend on the plan you choose and the medications you take.

The Standard Deductible Is Expected To Increase

The standard Part D deductible is expected to increase from $615 in 2026 to $700 in 2027.

What this could mean for you

Depending on your plan, you may pay more for covered prescriptions before your plan begins paying its share.

The Out-Of-Pocket Limit Is Expected To Increase

The annual out-of-pocket limit for covered Part D drugs is expected to increase from $2,100 in 2026 to $2,400 in 2027.

After you reach the applicable limit through eligible spending, you generally will not pay additional cost sharing for covered Part D medications for the rest of that calendar year. You will still pay your plan premium and the cost of medications your plan does not cover.

What this could mean for you

When comparing plans, consider both the monthly premium and what you could pay for your medications over the full year.

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Your Premium Could Change

The amount you pay each month for Part D coverage may change in 2027. The increase or decrease will depend on your plan.

What this could mean for you

Do not assume your current premium will stay the same. Compare the premium along with the deductible and the cost of the medications you take. A plan with a lower monthly premium is not always the least expensive option overall.

Some Medicare-Negotiated Drug Prices Are Changing

Additional prescription drugs are expected to have Medicare-negotiated prices beginning January 1, 2027.

What this could mean for you

Your savings will depend on whether your medication is included, whether your plan covers it, and what you are required to pay under that plan. Do not assume that a negotiated price is the same as the amount you will pay at the pharmacy. Check your plan's list of covered medications and cost-sharing information.

Some People May Qualify For The Medicare GLP-1 Bridge Program

The Medicare GLP-1 Bridge program may provide qualifying Part D beneficiaries with temporary coverage for certain weight-management medications. Eligibility, covered products, costs, and other requirements may apply.

What this could mean for you

If you use or are considering one of these medications, check the official Medicare program information and your plan's coverage requirements.

Your Open Enrollment Checklist

You can use this checklist to prepare before comparing plans.

01 **Make a complete medication list.**

Write down every prescription medication you take. Include:

- The medication name
- The dose
- How often you take it
- What you currently pay

Include medications you take regularly as well as those you use only when needed.

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02 Check that every medication is covered.

Look for each prescription on the plan's formulary, which is its list of covered medications.

Do not stop after finding the medication's name. Also check:

- Which drug tier it is on
- What you will pay
- Whether there is a quantity limit
- Whether prior authorization is required
- Whether step therapy or another coverage requirement applies

A medication covered in 2026 may have different coverage or costs in 2027.

03 Compare your total costs.

Do not compare plans based only on the monthly premium.

Also review:

- The annual deductible
- Prescription copays or coinsurance
- What you could pay over the full year
- Whether your preferred pharmacy is in network
- Whether using a particular pharmacy affects your costs

04 Read all notices carefully.

Your plan should send information about changes to your 2027 coverage. You may also receive a notice (tan or blue) from Medicare. It is important to read these notices carefully rather than assuming your coverage will stay the same.

Look for changes involving:

- Monthly premiums
- Deductibles
- Covered medications
- Drug tiers
- Pharmacy and provider networks
- Prior authorization or other coverage requirements

If a notice is unclear, contact the plan and ask questions.

05 Consider what has changed for you.

Think about whether you have had:

- A new diagnosis
- A new prescription
- A change in your health
- A change in your preferred physician or pharmacy
- A meaningful change in your finances

Your 2026 plan may no longer fit your needs as well as it did when you selected it.

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06 **Ask whether you qualify for additional options.**

Some people with certain chronic conditions, or people who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid, may have additional Medicare plan options.

A Medicare advisor or official Medicare resource can help you understand which plans may be available to you.

07 **Ask for help.**

You do not have to compare every plan by yourself. Medicare resources and licensed Medicare insurance agents can help with plan selection, enrollment, eligibility, and coverage questions.

Your physician, prescriber, or pharmacist can help with questions about your medications and treatment.

Getting Help Comparing Plans

If you work with a licensed Medicare insurance agent, look for someone who:

- Asks about your medications and health care needs
- Checks your provider and pharmacy networks
- Reviews prescription formularies and costs
- Explains prior authorization and other coverage requirements
- Clearly compares more than one available option
- Gives you time to ask questions

Be cautious if you feel pressured to make an immediate decision. You should also be cautious if the conversation focuses only on a low monthly premium or extra benefits without considering your prescriptions, providers, pharmacies, and other health care needs.

Before working with an agent, ask which insurance companies and plans the agent represents.

Your Pharmacist Can Help With Medication Questions

Your pharmacist can help you prepare for a conversation about your prescription coverage. Start by making sure your medication list is complete and current. Your pharmacist can help identify medication-related questions to consider when reviewing a plan.

If a medication is not covered or has become too expensive, your pharmacist may be able to work with you and your prescriber, when clinically appropriate, to discuss possible alternatives.

Where To Get Help

For official Medicare information:

- Medicare Plan Compare: Compare Medicare health and prescription drug plans available in your area.
- Medicare Part D Information: Learn more about Medicare prescription drug coverage.
- 1-800-MEDICARE: Contact Medicare with questions about coverage, enrollment, eligibility, and plan options.
- Your State Health Insurance Assistance Program: SHIP programs provide Medicare counseling and assistance.

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For medication questions

Your pharmacist	Your physician or other prescriber

A Little Preparation Can Help



Open enrollment is not only about finding a new plan. It is about making sure you understand what your current coverage will look like in 2027.



Begin with your medication list. Check that your prescriptions, physicians, and preferred pharmacy are still covered. Review your potential costs, read notices from your plan, and ask questions when something is unclear.



You do not have to make the decision alone. The right Medicare resources, qualified advisors, and medication experts can help you understand your choices and take the next step.

Where To Learn More

What's the Difference Between Medicare and Medicaid?

Medicare's Many Parts: Demystified

Medicare Part D Changes for 2027: Six Things Seniors Should Know

Medicare Costs Poised to Rise as 2027 Plan Changes Take Shape

Get Help Applying and More

Medicare GLP-1 Bridge

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