

## Call Us

The Alaska **Medicare Information Office** answers your questions about all aspects of Medicare.

In Alaska: **800-478-6065**

In Anchorage: **907-269-3680**

### Call us any time.

If we can't take your call right away, leave us a message and we'll call you back.

Either the Anchorage office staff will help you, or there may be a counselor in your community who can help you in person.

## VOLUNTEER

Can you help out during weekdays?

Are you interested in helping your fellow Alaskans?

The Medicare Information Office can train you to help people:

- Find the best Medicare plans
- Understand billing statements
- Protect Medicare benefits by preventing fraud, waste and abuse

Medicare can pay 75% or more of your prescription drug costs if you qualify for having limited income and resources. Let us see if you'll qualify and we'll help you apply online.

[www.benefitscheckup.org/alaska](http://www.benefitscheckup.org/alaska)

**Our services are free.**  
**Donations are welcome at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center for the Medicare Counseling site.**

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State of Alaska  
Department of Health & Social Services  
Senior and Disabilities Services  
Anchorage, Alaska



[www.medicare.alaska.gov](http://www.medicare.alaska.gov)

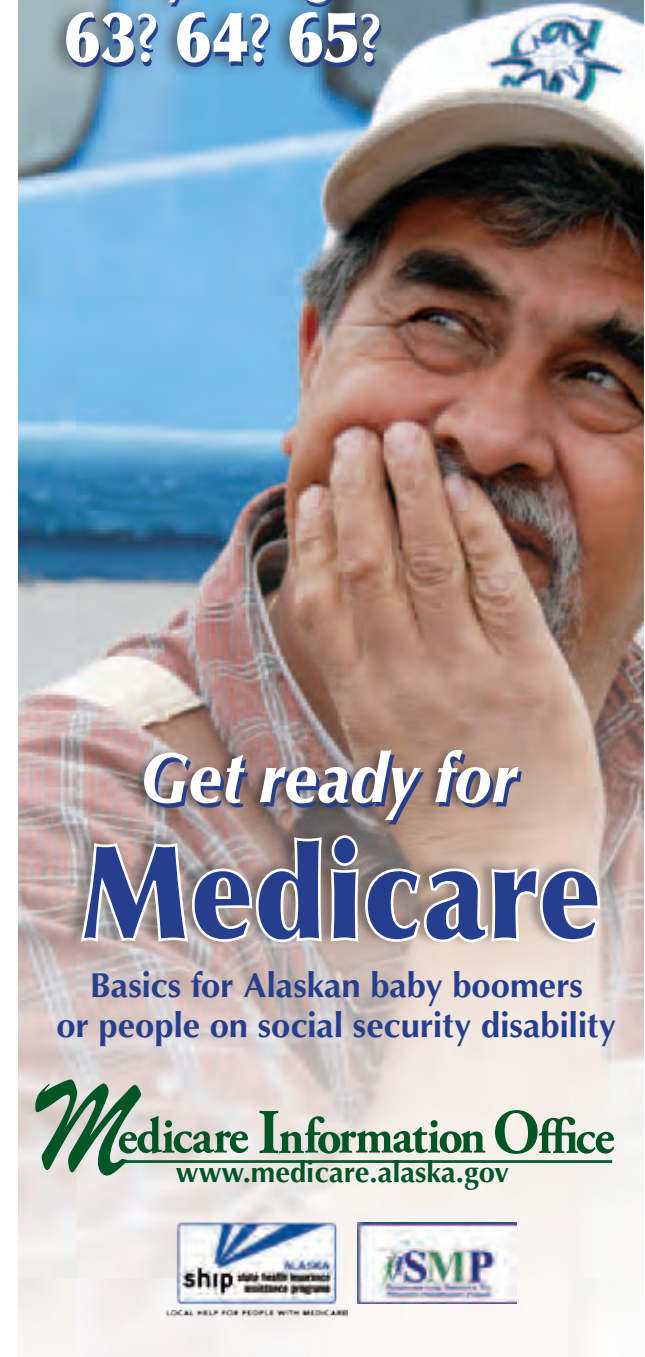
### Medicare.gov

The official U.S. government site for Medicare:

- get the latest **Medicare & You** handbook
  - find dozens of Medicare-specific publications
  - compare drug plans
  - use the formulary finder to see what drugs are covered by your plan
- ...and much, much more.

## MEDICARE

Are you age  
**63? 64? 65?**



Get ready for  
**Medicare**

Basics for Alaskan baby boomers  
or people on social security disability

**Medicare Information Office**  
[www.medicare.alaska.gov](http://www.medicare.alaska.gov)



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

## What is Medicare?

Medicare is health insurance for people who are age 65 and older, under age 65 with disabilities, or any age with end-stage renal disease or Lou Gehrig's disease.

### Medicare has several parts:

**Part A** (Hospital Insurance) covers hospital stays, some care in skilled nursing facilities, some home care and hospice.

**Part B** (Medical Insurance) covers medically necessary services like doctors' visits, preventive services, and medical equipment.

**Part C** (Medicare Advantage) fee-for-service, HMO/PPO's providing Parts A, B and D. None available in Alaska in 2011.

**Part D** (Medicare Prescription Drug Plan) offers prescription drug coverage to everyone with Medicare.

**Medicare Supplement Insurance** (Medigap) is private insurance that covers costs not paid by Medicare. Alaskans

on Medicare younger than 65 should consider a supplement or Medicare plan through ACHIA (Alaska Comprehensive Health Insurance Association) **888-290-0616.**



## When to sign up

**Part A & B:** When you turn 65, you have a seven-month initial enrollment period: the three months before your birthday month, your birthday month, and the three months after.

If you or your spouse work past age 65 and you have insurance through that employment, you can delay enrolling in Part A and/or B. You can then sign up during the 8-month period that begins the month after the employment or the group health plan coverage ends, whichever is first.

If you miss your first enrollment period, your next chance to enroll in Medicare Parts A & B is January 1 – March 31 each year. **You may be penalized.**

**Part D:** Annual open enrollment is October 15 – December 7 each year.

## Do I *have* to sign up for Medicare?

**Everyone should contact** the Social Security Administration **three months before turning 65** to discuss their specific situation.

If you have Tri-Care, AlaskaCare or other retiree health insurance, Medicare is always primary to the retiree plan. Sign up for Medicare Parts A & B to begin the month you turn 65. Federal retirees should consult with their retiree benefits booklets or office.

People who get health care services from the VA or Tribal Health facilities have options.

## How to sign up

### Contact Social Security for Medicare Parts A & B

*FILE ONLINE:* [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

*OR* speak to a social security representative between **7 a.m** and **7 p.m.** Monday through Friday. **Nationwide: 800-772-1213** toll-free TTY users call 800-325-0778

*OR contact your local office:*

• **Anchorage:** 907-271-4455, or 866-772-3081 toll-free

*Location:* 222 W 8th Ave.  
(Corner of 8th and C St. in the Federal Building Annex)

• **Fairbanks:** 907-456-5390, or 800-478-0391 toll-free

• **Juneau:** 907-586-7070, or 800-478-7124 toll-free

• **Ketchikan:** 907-225-5200, or 800-478-7124 toll-free

### Medicare Part D or other plans

We can help you find the most cost effective Prescription Drug coverage

**Call us! 269-3680 or 800-478-6065**

*OR* use the drug plan comparison tool at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

You will need your red, white and blue medicare card handy and a list of your medications with dosage and quantity.