

MEDICARE



THE GOOD



THE BAD



THE UGLY



AGENDA

- **THE GOOD** – Positive aspects of Medicare
 - providing good insurance coverage
 - limits some out of pocket costs
 - provides coverage at a reasonable cost
- **THE BAD** – Rules, benefit limitations
 - confusing regulations
 - penalties
- **THE UGLY** – Regulations
 - issues that could generate significant expenses
- **MAXIMIZING BENEFITS**

THE GOOD

- No annual or lifetime dollar cap
- No medical underwriting for medical or prescription drug coverage
- Available to all people over 65, and those under 65 on disability
- Broad coverage for most medical services/supplies
- Various options available such as traditional Medicare or Medicare Advantage plans



THE GOOD

- Hospital coverage (Part A) premium free
- Ability to purchase medical coverage (Part B) at a reasonable price
- Physicians, hospitals, and other provider contracting limit out-of-pocket costs
- Cap on balance billing for non-participating physicians
- Wellness services covered at little or no cost



THE GOOD

- ▶ **Participating providers accept Medicare allowed amounts as payment in full**
- ▶ **Medicare accepted in all 50 states and territories**
- ▶ **Claim coordination between Medicare and Medigap policies (crossover)**
- ▶ **Flexibility to change drug plans when in a nursing home**
- ▶ **Individual Medicare account online to monitor claims**



THE BAD

- Enrollment periods can be confusing
- Medicare supplements can be confusing
- Higher premiums for high income beneficiaries (IRMA)
- Medicare Advantage plans confusing with provider networks
- Part A has a cap on lifetime reserve days
- Psychiatric care in free standing hospital is limited to 190 days in your lifetime



2019 Part B Income-Related Premium Amounts

**If Your Annual Income Is
(Modified Adjusted Gross
Income)**

2019

Individual Tax Return	Joint Tax Return	Premium
\$85,000 or less	\$170,000 or less	\$135.50
\$85,001 - \$107,000	\$170,001 - \$214,000	\$189.60
\$107,001 - \$133,500	\$214,001 - \$267,000	\$270.90
\$133,501 - \$160,000	\$267,001 - \$320,000	\$352.20
\$160,000- \$500,000	\$320,000- \$750,000	\$433.40
Over \$500,000	Over \$750,000	\$460.50

Part D Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts

If Your Annual Income Is:

2019

Individual Tax Return	Joint Tax Return	Additional charge
\$85,000 or less	\$170,000 or less	\$0.00
\$85,001 - \$107,000	\$170,001 - \$214,000	\$12.40
\$107,001 - \$133,500	\$214,001 - \$267,000	\$31.90
\$133,501 - \$160,000	\$267,001 - \$320,000	\$51.40
\$160,000-\$500,000	\$320,000 - \$750,000	\$70.90
Above \$500,000	Above \$750,000	\$77.40

THE UGLY

- Possible lifetime penalties for late enrollment into Parts B & D
- No out of pocket maximum
- Changing supplements may subject beneficiary to medical underwriting
- Skilled nursing not covered unless preceded by a 3-day INPATIENT hospital admission
- Long term care not covered



MAXIMIZING BENEFITS

- Review plans every year at annual election period October 15th – December 7th
- Use providers who accept assignment
- Use hospitals that accept Medicare
- Review your drug plan every year and use preferred or network pharmacies
- Consider a high deductible supplement (F or G Prime)



MAXIMIZING BENEFITS

- Do not cancel supplement if you move out of state (it is portable)
- Consider auto payment for your drug plan and supplement
- Be sure you understand your benefits and how to use them
- Be sure you are adequately covered
- When traveling outside of the United States, consider purchasing travel health insurance
- What is happening with Plan F? F High Deductible?



MAXIMIZING BENEFITS

- What if a broker or health plan calls me and wants me to change plans NOW?
- What if I get a call from Medicare wanting to verify my Medicare number or Social Security number?
- What if a back brace shows up on my doorstep?
- What about critical illness insurance? Do I need it?
- Have you set up your account at Medicare.gov?



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
SERVICES OFFERED BY THE COUNCIL
ON AGING VISIT THE WEBSITE AT:**

WWW.COABC.ORG

OR

CALL 828-277-8288

**FOR ASSISTANCE WITH MEDICARE
ISSUES, SEE YOUR PARSEC WEALTH
MANAGEMENT ADVISOR TO SCHEDULE
AN APPOINTMENT WITH A COUNCIL
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QUESTIONS?