

Turning 65 Checklist:

- **Enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B**

You may sign up as early as three months before your 65th birthday to ensure that your coverage begins on the day you turn 65. Medicare covers a large portion of your medical costs but there is cost-sharing involved which is why many people buy a Medicare health plan to assist with some of the costs Medicare doesn't pay.

- **Shop for a Medigap insurance policy to supplement Medicare**

To fill in the gaps in Medicare payments, many people buy a private Medigap supplemental insurance policy. You will be responsible for the Part A hospital deductible (\$1,216). You will pay the Part B deductible (\$147). You will be responsible for 20% of the cost for doctor visits and services, lab tests, emergency room treatment, ambulance, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, physical therapy, and most medical care you receive outside a hospital. THERE IS NO CAP TO YOUR 20% CO-INSURANCE. The Medicare Part B premium is \$104.90 per month.

- **Consider a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan**

The high cost of prescription drugs leads the majority of people age 65 and over to enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, which provides some reduction in yearly drug costs but will likely have co-pays depending on the drug.

- Consider a Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage) managed care plan. Many people age 65 and older (or younger depending on disability status) enroll in a Medicare Part C Medicare Advantage HMO/PPO or other managed care plan. These plans replace and provide broader coverage than traditional Medicare Parts A and B. They are somewhat less expensive than the combination of regular Medicare plus a private Medigap supplemental insurance policy, but they limit the health providers you may use. Most Medicare Advantage plans include prescription drug coverage.
- Find out about "Extra Help" if you have low income and few assets. There is both full medical coverage and direct financial help available to people who are eligible for Medicare and have low income and few assets other than their homes.