



TURNING 65
SOLUTIONS

CHECKLIST



TURNING 65
MEDICARE CHECKLIST



Turning 65 Medicare Checklist

If you are not working, or are working and do not have an employer sponsored health insurance plan:

About 3 Months before your 65th birthday month:

1. **Get enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B** – This can be done online at www.ssa.gov. You do NOT have to go to the Social Security office if you are applying under your own (not your spouse's) benefits.
2. **Determine how you will obtain your Medicare services; through Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage** – There are pros and cons to both sides of this Medicare equation. No two people are alike and no program is one-size-fits-all.
3. **Determine if you need a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan** – Medicare Part D can be complicated and there is a penalty if you get this one wrong.

If you are still working or are retired from a company and have an employer sponsored health insurance plan:

About 6 Months before your 65th birthday month:

1. **Start gathering information** – Your HR or benefits office at your company should be able to answer the following questions:
 - a. When I turn 65, will I be able to keep my company insurance?
 - b. If yes, will the company insurance be my primary or secondary insurer? (Hint: if primary, you might not need to enroll in Medicare Part B)
 - c. How much is it going to cost me? – Your premium can change.

Once you have the answers to these questions you can make a comparison with the private Medicare options.

About 3 Months before your 65th birthday month:

2. **Get enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B** – Remember, you may not need Part B if you are keeping your company insurance. This can be done online at www.ssa.gov. You do NOT have to go to the Social Security office if you are applying under your own (not your spouse's) benefits.
3. **Compare your company plan with a private plan** – Once they go on Medicare many people find that they can buy a private plan that has better coverage for a lower price than their employer's plan. This is often NOT an apples-to-apples comparison, and you should seek the advice of an independent insurance broker who specializes in Medicare issues.
4. **Determine how you will obtain your Medicare services; through Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage** – There are pros and cons to both sides of this Medicare equation. No two people are alike and no program is one-size-fits-all.
5. **Determine if you need a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan** – Medicare Part D can be complicated and there is a penalty if you get this one wrong.

Medicare can seem overly complicated – We are here to help. Turning 65 Solutions is an independent insurance brokerage specializing in Medicare and retirement issues. Call us with any questions or for a free quote.

Turning 65 Solutions Tax and Insurance LLC

www.t65s.com

1-800-515-4031