



Home | [FAQs](#) | [Screen Reader Version](#) | [Español](#) | [Mailing List](#)

Search Medicare.gov

Search



This is an optional and free service

Sign In ID:

Password:

Sign In

[learn more](#) | [sign up](#)

[Prescription Drug Plan](#)

NEW! [Medicare & You 2009](#)

[Am I Eligible?](#)

[Medicare Billing](#)

[Medicare Appeals](#)

[Long-Term Care](#)

[Plan Choices](#)

[Preventive Services](#)

[Personal Health Records](#)

[Address Change](#)

[Replacement Card](#)

[Medicaid Enrollment](#)

[Provider Information](#)

[Ombudsman](#)

[Emergency](#)

[Glossary](#)

Enrolling in Medicare - How Do I Sign up for Medicare Part A & B if I am close to age 65 and get or can get Social Security benefits?

1. You Already Get Social Security Benefits

You will not need to do anything. You will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B effective the month you are 65. For example, if your 65th birthday is February 20, 2001, your Medicare effective date would be February 1, 2001. (Note: if your birthday is on the 1st day of any month, Medicare Part A and Part B will be effective the 1st day of the prior month. For example, if your 65th birthday is February 1, 2001, your Medicare effective date would be January 1, 2001.) Your Medicare card will be mailed to you about 3 months before your 65th birthday. If you do not want Medicare Part B, follow the instructions that come with the card. For complete information on enrollment see the **[Initial Enrollment Package](#)** section.

2. You Want To Apply for Both Social Security Retirement Benefits and Medicare

If you are close to age 65 and not yet getting Social Security benefits or Medicare, you can apply for both at the same time. To make sure that your Medicare Part B coverage start date is not delayed, you should

[Printable-Version](#)

[E-mail This Page](#)

[Overview](#)

[What is Medicare?](#)

[Who is Eligible?](#)

[Enrolling in Medicare](#)

[General Enrollment Period](#)

[Initial Enrollment Package](#)

[About Your Medicare Card](#)

[Address Change](#)

[Your Medicare Benefits](#)

[Medicare Amounts for 2004](#)

[Help to Pay Your Health Care Costs](#)

[Basic Medicare Information Publications](#)

Glossary

Privacy Practices

Medicare Online Forms

Search Tools



apply three months before the month you turn 65. This is the beginning of your 7 month Initial Enrollment Period. If you wait until you are 65, or in the last 3 months of your Initial Enrollment Period, your Medicare Part B coverage start date will be delayed.

To apply, you can call or visit your local Social Security office or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. You can apply online (using the Internet) if you meet certain rules. To apply online, visit www.socialsecurity.gov. You must answer a series of questions that will tell if you can apply online. For example, you must be at least 61 years and 9 months old; plan to start receiving Social Security retirement benefits within the next 4 months; live in the United States or one of its territories/commonwealths; agree to get your Social Security benefits by direct deposit to your bank or other financial institution. You must answer some other questions as well.

3. You Do Not Yet Get Social Security Benefits and You Only Want To Apply for Medicare

If you are close to age 65 and not getting Social Security benefits, you must apply for Medicare. You can apply by calling or visiting your local Social Security office, or by calling Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. You should apply three months before the month you turn 65. This is the beginning of your 7 month Initial Enrollment Period. If you wait until you are 65, or in the last 3 months of your Initial Enrollment Period, your Medicare Part B coverage start date will be delayed. You currently cannot apply for

Medicare only online (using the Internet).

Important Information about enrolling in Medicare Part B.



Top of page

**[Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Website Privacy](#) | [Website Policies](#)
[Freedom of Information Act](#) | [USA.gov](#)**

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services | U.S. Department of Health and Human Services