

# Medicare Fact Sheet

UNIVERSITY  
OF  
CALIFORNIA

## **YOUR MEDICARE ID CARD AND MBI NUMBER**

Medicare has finished mailing new Medicare cards to members in all U.S. states and territories. Your new card has a randomly-generated Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) number that is no longer your Social Security number.

If you haven't received your card:

1. Sign in to MyMedicare.gov at [www.mymedicare.gov](http://www.mymedicare.gov) to get your MBI number or print your official card.
2. Call 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227). TTY users can call 877-486-2048. There may be information that needs to be corrected, such as your mailing address.

The last date you can still use your old card to get health care services is Jan. 1, 2020.

### **For More Information About Medicare**

These organizations may be able to answer your questions about Medicare.

#### **Medicare plan benefits**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)  
800-633-4227  
[medicare.gov](http://medicare.gov)

#### **Enrolling in Medicare and premium payments**

Social Security Administration (SSA)  
800-772-1213  
800-325-0778 TTY  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

#### **General health insurance and Medicare information**

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)  
800-434-0222  
[www.cahealthadvocates.org](http://www.cahealthadvocates.org)

## **WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS**

Medicare will never call you uninvited and ask you to give them personal or private information to get your Medicare number or card.

Scam artists may try to get personal information (like your Medicare number) by contacting you about your new card.

If someone asks you for your information or for money, or threatens to cancel your health benefits if you don't share your personal information, hang up and call 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227).

## **CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS WITH UC AND MEDICARE**

### **UC**

You can change your address with UC using your UC Retirement At Your Service (UCRAYS) online account. Visit [ucal.us/retireehelp](http://ucal.us/retireehelp) for instructions. You will be able to enter a home, mailing or temporary address.

### **MEDICARE**

If you are enrolled in Medicare, you can change your address online by using a my Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Go to the My Profile Tab on my Social Security.

You will be asked to supply a street address to remain eligible for insurance in a Medicare plan. P.O. Boxes are not acceptable as a home address.

If you get Social Security Income (SSI), do not have a U.S. mailing address, or are unable to change your address online, you can:

- Call 800-772-1213 (TTY 800-325-0778), Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Contact your local Social Security office. You can search for your local office by zip code at [secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp](http://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp)

If you do not receive Social Security benefits, SSI or Medicare, you do not need to change your address with Medicare.

If you're 65, chances are you're eligible for Medicare—the federal program begun in the 1960s to provide those age 65 and over with secure access to medical care.

If you're still working at UC, your UC employee medical plan remains your primary coverage, but you may need to make some decisions about Medicare for yourself or a family member who is turning 65.

If you're retired, UC offers several plans that coordinate with Medicare. Often this coordination means that you pay less for certain medical expenses than you would if you had only Original Medicare coverage.

These plans may also be available to those under 65 who qualify because of disability, permanent kidney failure (end-stage renal disease) or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

This fact sheet covers the basics of Medicare, including when to enroll and how it works together with UC-sponsored medical plans. It also includes information comparing the coverage and costs of the UC-sponsored medical plans that coordinate with Medicare.

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**Tip**  
To keep your UC-sponsored retiree medical coverage, you need to enroll in Medicare at the appropriate time (see “How and When to Enroll in Medicare” on page 7) and keep current on your Medicare premium payments. Remember that once you retire, Medicare becomes your primary medical insurer; the UC-sponsored plan is secondary and depends on you keeping your Medicare coverage. *If you don't keep up with your Medicare premiums, you could lose your UC medical coverage and pay penalties to UC and Medicare.*

If you're disabled, please also see *Your Guide to Disability Benefits* for important information that applies to you.

## The A, B, C and D of Medicare

Medicare’s terminology can be confusing at first, but once you understand a few essentials, it becomes fairly straightforward. Medicare has four parts: A, B, C and D.

**Part A** covers hospital inpatient care, skilled nursing and hospice care, and home health services. It’s “premium-free,” as long as you, your spouse or your ex-spouse have worked full time for 10 years and paid Social Security taxes. If you qualify through your spouse or ex-spouse, you need to have been married at least 10 years.\*

**Part B** covers outpatient medical services like doctor visits, including some preventive care as well as ambulance services, mental health care, and durable medical equipment like wheelchairs and walkers.

You must pay a monthly premium to maintain Medicare Part B coverage. Under Medicare regulations, this monthly premium is higher for those with higher incomes. Part B premiums are paid to the Social Security Administration (SSA). If you’re receiving Social Security income, the premiums will be deducted from your monthly Social Security benefit. If not, Social Security will bill you directly.

If you’re eligible for one of UC’s Medicare-coordinated medical plans, it’s possible that you’ll get a portion of your Part B premium refunded to you. That’s because the amount UC contributes toward your retiree medical benefits is sometimes higher than the total cost of the premium. If this is the case, the university will refund part of the amount that you pay for your Medicare Part B premiums. (This reimbursement is added to your UCRP monthly pension benefit payment or sent via check to eligible Savings Choice members.) To be eligible for UC medical plan coverage, you must have “assigned” your Medicare to the UC medical plan at the appropriate time by completing a form. You also must maintain continuous enrollment by paying both your Part B and your portion of the UC medical plan premiums on time.

For 2020, UC’s contribution covers, on average, 70 percent of the total premium.

\* To learn more about how you may qualify through a spouse, former spouse or deceased spouse, please contact the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 or visit [ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov); see page 9.

**Part C** is different—it doesn’t refer to a separate subsection of care like Parts A, B and D. Instead, it’s another term for Medicare Advantage plans—a type of Medicare-approved plan run by private companies. UC offers Medicare Advantage plans with HMO and PPO options. Under these arrangements, you’re required to assign your Medicare Parts A and B benefits to your plan (enrollment into D is automatic), and to maintain that assignment. In return, the plan provides all of your benefits. To learn more about how this works, see “How UC Medical Plans Work with Medicare,” on page 11.

**Part D** covers prescription drugs. The cost is folded into your UC-sponsored medical plan. Most UC retirees don’t pay an extra premium for Part D coverage, but you may pay a premium if your income is above a certain dollar amount. See “More about Part D” for information about how Part D coverage coordinates with specific UC Medicare medical plans.

### SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

People tend to link Social Security and Medicare, but there are many instances when they are not connected. For example, the age at which individuals are eligible for their full Social Security benefit may be later than age 65, but the Medicare eligibility age remains at 65. Also, some long-term faculty and staff, and Safety Members, have not made contributions to Social Security, and thus are not eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A. If this applies to you, you will continue to be enrolled in a non-Medicare medical plan—unless you are eligible for Medicare through a spouse, former spouse or other work credit from a different employer. The University requires a denial letter from Social Security to continue your non-Medicare medical plan past age 65.

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

There are three steps most UC members need to take to enroll in a Medicare plan:

1. Call or go online to Social Security to enroll in Medicare
2. Assign your Medicare to your UC medical plan
3. Pay your Medicare and UC plan premiums

## STEP 1—ENROLL IN MEDICARE

**Unless you are still working or currently covered for insurance by another UC employee,** you must sign up for Medicare when you turn age 65, if you're eligible. If you don't sign up and assign your Medicare to your UC plan by the date you turn age 65, you will remain in the non-Medicare plan. You will also pay a significant penalty on top of your monthly non-Medicare premium and you risk termination of your UC medical plan. Once you sign up and are approved for Medicare, you'll move to a UC-sponsored medical plan that coordinates with Medicare. If you are eligible for Social Security, you can still enroll in Medicare without electing to receive Social Security.

If you're not eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A, send your denial letter from Social Security to UC before you turn 65 and you'll continue in your UC-sponsored non-Medicare medical plan.

## STEP 2—ASSIGN YOUR MEDICARE

To ensure that your Medicare coverage and your UC coverage work together properly, you must "assign" your Medicare benefits to your medical plan. Use one of the following forms based on your current medical plan; all forms are available on UCnet ([ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu) under HR Forms and Publications). Each Medicare member completes a separate form. You need to sign and return your completed form to UC the month prior to your desired Medicare effective date.

### UC's Medicare Advantage plans:

UC Medicare Choice—*UC Medicare Choice* (UBEN 121)

Kaiser Senior Advantage—*Medicare Advantage Universal Enrollment/Election Form for Kaiser Senior Advantage* (UBEN 127)

### UC's Part D plans:

UC Medicare PPO or UC High Option Supplement to Medicare—*Blue Cross MedicareRx (PDP) with Senior Rx Plus Enrollment Form for UC Medicare PPO or UC High Option Supplement to Medicare* (UBEN 123)

### Medicare Part D and Your UC Medicare Plan

In all UC Medicare plans except the UC PPO without Prescription Drugs, your Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage coordinates with your UC medical plan. **You don't need to—and should not—buy or participate in Part D drug coverage from any other source.**

### Medicare and Other Employer or Retiree Plans

Under Medicare rules, you're not allowed to be enrolled in more than one "creditable" Part D or Medicare Advantage plan. ("Creditable" just means that the plan's coverage is likely to pay at least as much as the standard Medicare benefit.)

So, if you have Medicare-coordinated insurance with another employer or retiree plan that includes creditable Part D prescription drug coverage, you cannot also have Part D creditable coverage with a UC plan. If you decide to keep the other plan, you may be able to suspend your UC coverage, or enroll in UC Medicare PPO without Prescription Drugs. To learn more about suspending coverage, take a look at the *Group Insurance Eligibility Fact Sheet for Retirees and Eligible Family Members* ([ucal.us/gieretirees](http://ucal.us/gieretirees)).

### UC Medicare PPO Without Prescription Drugs

To enroll in this plan you must be enrolled in a non-UC prescription drug plan and be able to produce proof of enrollment to UC. Proof from your Part D insurance plan should include the names of all enrolled members and the Part D start date. Your enrollment in Medicare does not qualify as a standalone prescription drug plan. Make sure you are enrolled in both a medical and prescription drug plan. Medicare will charge you a late enrollment penalty if you have a gap in your creditable coverage. The penalty is permanent, even if you re-enroll.

## STEP 3—PAY YOUR MEDICARE AND YOUR UC MEDICAL PLAN PREMIUMS

Under Medicare rules, if you are enrolled in Medicare you need to maintain continuous creditable prescription drug coverage whether you have a Part D or Medicare Advantage plan. To do this, you must continue paying your Medicare premium to Social Security **as well as** your medical plan premium to UC (your payment to UC is usually deducted from your monthly pension check). If you don't pay your Part B or D premiums to Social Security, you could lose your UC medical coverage altogether.

If you have a break in medical coverage and don't enroll in another plan with prescription drug coverage within 63 days, Medicare will charge you a permanent Late Enrollment Penalty (LEP). Starting Jan. 2020, this LEP will be billed to you directly for payment by your medical plan. This includes members who have a current LEP or any future LEPs.

## The A, B, C and D of Medicare

### YOUR COSTS FOR MEDICARE COVERAGE

Medicare Part A is usually premium-free. There is always a monthly premium for Part B coverage. You pay the Social Security Administration for your Part B premium. Usually it is deducted from your Social Security benefit. If you are not receiving a Social Security benefit at this time, there are four ways you can pay your Medicare bill:

1. Pay directly from your bank account through your bank's online bill payment service. Contact your bank or go to their website to set this up.
2. Sign up for Medicare Easy Pay at [www.medicare.gov/your-medicare-costs/ways-to-pay-part-a-part-b-premiums/medicare-easy-pay](http://www.medicare.gov/your-medicare-costs/ways-to-pay-part-a-part-b-premiums/medicare-easy-pay), a free service that automatically deducts your premium payments from your savings or checking account each month, usually on the 20th.
3. Pay by check or money order. Mail your Medicare payment coupon from Social Security with your payment.
4. Pay by credit card or debit card.

The standard Part B premium amount in 2020 is \$144.60 (or higher depending upon your income). However, if you pay your Part B premium through your monthly Social Security benefit, you may pay less (\$130.00 on average). Social Security will tell you the exact amount of your Part B premium.

You may pay the standard premium amount if:

- You enroll in Part B for the first time in 2020
- You have Medicare and Medicaid, and Medicaid pays your premiums (your state will pay the standard premium amount of \$144.60)

Individuals with a Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) reported on their 2018 federal tax return of more than \$87,000 (more than \$174,000 for married couples) will pay \$144.60 plus an additional amount based on their income (see chart at right). If you had a major life-changing event such as a work stoppage or reduction and your income has gone down, you may use form SSA-44 from the Social Security Administration (available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ssa-44.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ssa-44.pdf)) to request a reduction in your income-related monthly adjustment amount.

The Part D plan premium for most UC retirees will be zero. Most people are not charged a premium for Part D. However, as with Part B, you may pay a Part D premium based on your MAGI (see chart below). These Medicare premiums are paid to Social Security and are in addition to any premiums you pay UC for your UC insurance.

### MEDICARE PREMIUMS BASED ON INCOME

Though the standard Part B premium for 2020 is \$144.60, you may pay more depending on your Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI).

Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)	Part B monthly Premium* amount/person	Part D monthly Premium* amount/person
Individuals with MAGI of \$87,000 or less and married couples with a MAGI of \$174,000 or less	Standard premium = \$144.60	Included in your plan premium
Individuals with MAGI of \$87,001 to \$109,000 and married couples with MAGI of \$174,001 to \$218,000	Standard premium + \$57.80	Your initial plan premium** + \$12.20
Individuals with MAGI of \$109,001 to \$136,000 and married couples with MAGI of \$218,001 to \$272,000	Standard premium + \$144.60	Your initial plan premium** + \$31.50
Individuals with MAGI of \$136,001 to \$163,000 and married couples with MAGI of \$272,001 to \$326,000	Standard premium + \$231.40	Your initial plan premium** + \$50.70
Individuals with MAGI of \$163,001 to \$500,000 and married couples with MAGI of \$326,001 to \$750,000	Standard premium + \$318.10	Your initial plan premium** + \$70.00
Individuals with MAGI greater than or equal to \$500,000 and married couples with MAGI greater than or equal to \$750,000	Standard premium + \$347.00	Your initial plan premium** + \$76.40

\* These premium amounts are set by Medicare, not the university.

\*\* For most UC retirees, the Part D plan premium will be \$0.

## How and When to Enroll in Medicare

You'll most likely become eligible for Medicare when you turn 65, but it could happen earlier as a result of becoming disabled or being diagnosed with end-stage renal disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

If you are an employee and covered by a UC medical plan, UC will send you a letter about Medicare a few months before you reach age 65. As long as you remain an eligible employee, your coverage in a UC employee medical plan can continue regardless of your age or whether you enroll in Medicare (see Important Note below).

If you're a retiree and covered by a UC medical plan, UC will send you a Medicare information packet that includes enrollment instructions three months before your 65th birthday. In general, Medicare and UC require enrollment at age 65. (If your birthday is on the first day of the month, Part A will start the first day of the prior month.)

It's generally to your advantage to follow the guidelines below. These guidelines also apply to any covered family members who become eligible for Medicare.

### **IF YOU TURN 65 AND YOU'RE STILL WORKING**

#### **MEDICARE PART A**

If you're receiving Social Security, Railroad Retirement or Civil Service benefits, you'll be enrolled automatically in Part A. If you want to defer enrollment, contact Social Security or follow the instructions sent with the Medicare card you receive in the mail.

Even if you're not receiving Social Security or the other benefits mentioned above, you may want to enroll in Medicare Part A, hospital insurance, because there is no premium if you have worked for 10 years and had Social Security taxes deducted. Your UC coverage will remain your primary coverage while employed, and your Medicare Part A may contribute something toward your medical expenses. Contact the Social Security Administration (800-772-1213) to enroll.

**Important Note:** If you are enrolled or considering enrolling in the UC Health Savings Plan, you may want to defer enrollment in Medicare Part A and/or B while you are working because Medicare enrollees cannot contribute to a Health Savings Account. If you or an enrolled family member enrolls in Medicare, you should contact your local benefits office to enroll in a different UC

medical plan. If your family member enrolls in Medicare, you may be able to continue making contributions for the rest of the plan year, however the amount will be prorated. Contact Health Equity at 866-212-4729 for more information.

#### **MEDICARE PART B**

If you're already receiving Social Security, Railroad Retirement or Civil Service benefits when you become eligible for Medicare, Social Security will automatically enroll you in Part B; however, you are not required to enroll while you are working if you have employer-sponsored medical coverage. Most employees wait until they retire because of the cost of Medicare Part B premiums. At retirement, you'll have a special enrollment period to enroll and you will not be subject to late enrollment penalties. Be sure to contact Social Security three months prior to your retirement to coordinate your Medicare start date or enroll online at [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

Domestic partners covered by UC employees need to enroll in Part B at age 65 to avoid potential penalties, unless they have coverage from another employer.

Note: Actively employed Kaiser members might want to enroll in Part B at 65. Once you enroll, you can assign your Medicare benefits to Kaiser. In return, Kaiser will enroll you into the "working aged" plan which will waive medical and pharmacy co-payments, and provide chiropractic and enhanced hearing aid coverage and an eyewear allowance not provided in your employee plan. You continue to pay the employee rate for this plan until you become a retiree, in addition to your Medicare Part B monthly premium.

#### **Tip**

If you're still working and covered by both your employer plan and Medicare, show your employer group health plan ID card when you visit your doctor or hospital to obtain services. Tell your provider to submit claims to your UC plan first and Medicare second. If you don't, there could be mix-ups in processing your claims. If you have questions about your coverage, please contact the UC Retirement Administration Service Center at 800-888-8267.

# How and When to Enroll in Medicare

## **IF YOU'RE OVER AGE 65 AND YOU RETIRE**

If you are already enrolled in Medicare Part A, notify Medicare as soon as you stop working. Your record will be changed to make Medicare primary for any claims incurred after you retire. If you do not notify Medicare, claims may be processed incorrectly.

**If you are not enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B, you can apply up to 90 days before you retire. Call Social Security (800-772-1213) for the office nearest you or enroll online at [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov). If you are eligible and don't enroll, Medicare can charge you a permanent 10 percent penalty for each full year you could have had Part B and didn't: 1 percent per month for each full month that you didn't have Part D or other creditable drug coverage.**

If your 65th birthday occurs around the same time that you retire from UC, talk with Social Security about Medicare's Initial Enrollment Period (IEP) and Special Enrollment Period (SEP) rules. Your local Benefits Office can also review UC's Medicare policy and help you determine which month to contact Social Security to get the Medicare start date you want.

If you are 65 and older when you retire, Social Security may ask you to verify your medical coverage from age 65 to the date of your retirement. Call the UC Retirement Administration Service Center for a *Verification of Employment* form.

If you or your family members turn age 65 and are not eligible for premium-free Part A, you'll need to send UC a copy of the denial letter from the Social Security Administration. To get a denial letter, you must apply for Medicare. If your Part A is not premium-free, UC doesn't require you to enroll in Medicare or a Medicare plan.

If you move out of California and all your enrolled family members are in Medicare, you may be eligible to enroll in an individual medical plan offered by Via Benefits. Your enrollment must be coordinated through UC to receive the UC contribution. (See page 11 for more details.)

## **IF YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE OR DOMESTIC PARTNER ARE BOTH UC EMPLOYEES**

If one of you continues working and the other retires, what happens to your UC insurance and what actions you need to take regarding Medicare vary depending on your circumstances.

## **If you each have separate UC insurance and you retire:**

If you are Medicare-eligible, you will enroll in Medicare and assign your Medicare to the Medicare version of your current UC plan. (See page 5 for which plan to use.) If your working spouse/partner is Medicare-eligible, they do not have to enroll in Medicare while employed and they will retain their current UC employee plan. If either person wants to change their plans, they may do so at the next Open Enrollment.

**If you are covered under your working spouse/partner's UC insurance and you retire:** Whether or not you are eligible for Medicare, you have the option to continue coverage in your current UC employee plan until your working spouse/partner leaves UC employment or stops your coverage during an Open Enrollment. Generally, if you are covered under an employer-sponsored medical plan you may delay enrollment into Medicare. However, domestic partners are encouraged to contact the Social Security Administration before age 65; different rules may apply.

If either person wants to change plans or opt for separate coverage, or if you wish to cover your working spouse/partner after you retire, you may make those changes during the Open Enrollment either prior to or after your retirement. Duplicate coverage under a UC employee and retiree plan is not allowed. Check the plans you are enrolled in before you elect new coverage as a retiree.

## **IF YOU TURN 65 AND YOU'RE ALREADY RETIRED**

**Enroll in Medicare.** This isn't optional—it's required if you are eligible and you want to continue your UC-sponsored medical coverage. You may also be subject to lifelong Medicare penalties if you don't sign up as soon as you're eligible. UC also assesses penalties for non-enrollment, and you could be permanently de-enrolled from your UC medical coverage. (There are two exceptions; see "If You Live Outside the U.S." for details and see page 5, Step 1 if you are not eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A.)

**Complete your Medicare assignment form promptly.** See page 5 for which form to use.



## **KEEP PAYING YOUR MEDICARE PART B OR PART D PREMIUMS**

If you stop paying Social Security for your Part B and/or Part D premiums, Medicare notifies the university that you are no longer eligible for the Medicare plan. UC will then move you to a non-Medicare plan, stop any Part B reimbursement and charge you a significant penalty per month while you are not enrolled in Medicare. The premium for the non-Medicare plan is typically higher than the premium for the Medicare plan. To re-enroll, you may be required to re-assign your Medicare to your UC plan. Your non-Medicare plan will be terminated if you do not re-enroll in Medicare promptly.

**To re-enroll in Medicare, contact the Social Security Administration by phone 800-772-1213 or online at [ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov).**

## **IF YOU ARE OVER 65 AND RETURN TO WORK AT UC**

If you're retired and return to work at UC, you may need to enroll in a non-Medicare employee plan.

If you're rehired after retirement, you're allowed to work an average of no more than 43 percent time during a 12-month period. In most cases, if your appointment is within this policy, your retiree insurance benefits will continue and Medicare remains your primary coverage. Your retiree benefits also continue if you are appointed by agreement or are in a per diem appointment.

If you become eligible for UC employee medical coverage because of your rehired appointment, federal law requires that Medicare no longer be your primary coverage. That means you'll have to suspend your retiree medical plan and enroll in an employee plan. Medicare would then become your secondary, or backup, coverage. Your other option is to suspend both UC-sponsored retiree and employee medical coverage and have coverage by Original Medicare only.

If you enroll in an employee plan, your premium will be deducted from your employee earnings and, in most cases, your premium will increase. If you are receiving any Medicare Part B reimbursement from your UC retiree plan, it will stop. You also need to complete a *Medicare Advantage or Prescription Drug Plan Disenrollment Form (UBEN 101)* to stop assignment of Medicare to your UC retiree

plan. While you are covered as an employee, be sure to show your employee medical plan ID card (not your Medicare card) to your doctor for correct claims payment.

You may also cancel your Medicare Part B enrollment through Social Security while you are working, if you are eligible for employee medical coverage as a result of returning to work at UC.

## **RE-RETIREMENT**

Be sure to re-enroll in Medicare and unsuspend your UC retiree insurance immediately when you end employment, to avoid penalties and comply with UC requirements.

If you earned service credit, you may become newly-eligible for UC's health and welfare retiree plan benefits or the percentage of premium you pay may be reduced as a result of your return to UC employment. Please contact your local Benefits Office or the UC Retirement Administration Service Center for a review when you re-retire in either situation.

## **IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE THE U.S.**

Medicare doesn't cover health services outside the U.S. UC waives the requirement that you enroll in Parts A, B and D if you permanently live outside the country and have a foreign address listed as your home address with UC. If you're eligible for premium-free Part A when you return to the U.S., you'll be required to enroll in Part B and change your address with UC at that time. Be aware that Medicare may charge you a permanently higher premium if you enroll or re-enroll past age 65.

# How and When to Enroll in Medicare

## **IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE THROUGH YOUR SPOUSE'S WORK RECORD**

If you are covered by a UC retiree plan when you turn 65 and you did not contribute to Social Security but were married at least 10 years, you may become eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A when your current spouse or ex-spouse turns age 62. (This also includes a deceased spouse.) If you think you may be eligible, contact Social Security to enroll in Part A and B and assign your Medicare to your UC medical plan.

If you turn 65 before your spouse turns 62, Social Security may charge you the full or pro-rated Part A premium until you are eligible under your spouse at 62. The 2020 cost for Part A is \$458 per month. If you become eligible for Medicare through your spouse and do not enroll, Medicare may charge you a 10 percent penalty for each full 12 month period you could have had coverage and did not; and 1 percent penalty for each full month over 63 days that you could have had prescription drug coverage and did not. Call Social Security to avoid paying a lifetime Late Enrollment Penalty. In addition, UC will charge a substantial penalty for non-compliance if you do not enroll and assign your Medicare when eligible either under your own work record or that of your current, ex or deceased spouse.

# UC Medical Plans for Medicare Enrollees

UC-sponsored medical plans offer separate plans for Medicare enrollees. The Medicare version may have different benefits, service areas, behavioral health providers and doctors than the non-Medicare version. The Medicare plans that correspond with UC-sponsored non-Medicare plans are listed below:

Non-Medicare	Medicare
CORE	UC Medicare PPO
UC Blue & Gold HMO	UC Medicare Choice
Kaiser Permanente CA	Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage
UC Care	UC Medicare PPO
UC Health Savings Plan	Not available
Not available	UC Medicare PPO without Prescription Drugs*
Not available	UC High Option Supplement to Medicare*

\* These plans can be selected during Open Enrollment or if you have a qualifying event that allows you to enroll in any plan. All enrolled members must be in Medicare.

## YOU MUST GET YOUR CARE FROM MEDICARE PROVIDERS

To receive plan benefits under any UC-sponsored Medicare plan, you must use a provider who participates in Medicare. If your doctor does not take Medicare patients or will only treat you under a “private contract” directly with you, neither Medicare nor your UC-sponsored medical plan will cover the services. The year before you turn 65, ask if your doctor accepts patients with Medicare, check the carrier website or check Medicare’s website (medicare.gov). If your doctor takes only non-Medicare patients, you may need to select a new doctor during the Open Enrollment period before you turn 65. (See “Changing Plans,” for more information.)

## WHAT HAPPENS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BENEFITS

When you enroll in Medicare and transfer to a UC Medicare-coordinated plan, your behavioral health benefits may change. Your provider network may be different and you may need to obtain new authorizations or referrals to new providers. If you are receiving behavioral health benefits when your Medicare coverage becomes active, get in touch with your medical plan before you turn 65 to find out the specifics of how your benefits will change and what you need to do. If you don’t switch to a Medicare doctor, you may have to pay the charges yourself.

## CHANGING PLANS

Generally, becoming eligible for Medicare alone will not create a period of initial eligibility (PIE) that would allow you to change plans. You can change plans only during Open Enrollment (or if you have another qualifying event, such as moving out of the plan’s service area or marriage).

There are a couple of exceptions to this. One is if you’re enrolled in the UC Health Savings Plan. Since this plan does not have a Medicare version, you’ll need to select a new plan when you become eligible for Medicare. Those in UC Care and CORE will be enrolled in the UC Medicare PPO upon receipt of the Part D form and

### **Tip**

If you or a family member is enrolled in Medicare, you must complete the form to assign your Medicare benefits to your UC medical plan in the following situations:

- At the time you turn 65
- If you change medical plans during Open Enrollment
- When you return to the US after living abroad
- When you are no longer incarcerated
- When you return to retiree medical coverage after working at UC more than 43 percent time
- If you return to a Medicare plan after a period of enrollment in a non-Medicare plan

## UC Medical Plans for Medicare Enrollees

approval from Medicare. If you're enrolled in Kaiser, your Medicare plan is Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage. For UC Blue & Gold, it is UC Medicare Choice. If the Medicare version isn't available where you live, then you and your family may enroll in any UC-sponsored Medicare plan available in your area.

If you're enrolled in the UC High Option Supplement to Medicare or the UC Medicare PPO without Prescription Drugs plan and you add a non-Medicare family member, you'll need to select a new plan. All covered family members must be in Medicare in order to enroll in these two plans.

### **HOW UC MEDICAL PLANS WORK WITH MEDICARE**

#### **KAISER SENIOR ADVANTAGE, UC MEDICARE CHOICE**

Medicare pays a flat fee to these plans each month, and the Medicare Advantage plan agrees to assume full responsibility for your care.

Both of these plans require you to complete a form. For Kaiser, complete the *Medicare Advantage Universal Enrollment/Election Form for Kaiser Senior Advantage* (UBEN 127). For United Healthcare, complete the *UC Medicare Choice* form (UBEN 121). Forms are available on UCnet and must be completed before your Medicare coverage will be effective. For Kaiser, send the form directly to the plan with a copy to UC. For UC Medicare Choice, send the form to UC.

If you are enrolled in the Kaiser Senior Advantage Plan and move to the other (northern or southern) region, you will need to complete a new assignment form (UBEN 127).

#### **UC MEDICARE PPO, UC HIGH OPTION SUPPLEMENT TO MEDICARE AND UC MEDICARE PPO WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

When you receive services, claims are submitted to Medicare, the primary payer, and the plan is secondary. With these plans, you may see any Medicare provider. If your Medicare provider "accepts assignment," they will accept the Medicare-approved rate for services.

If your provider does not accept Medicare assignment, they can bill you for the amount over the Medicare allowable rate. This is called "balance billing."

You do not assign your Medicare Part A and B benefits to these plans, but you do assign your Part D prescription drug coverage, if your plan offers prescription drug coverage. Send the *Blue Cross MedicareRx (PDP) with Senior Rx Plus Enrollment Form for UC Medicare PPO or UC High Option Supplement to Medicare* (UBEN 123) directly to UC; the address is on the form.

Note: UC Medicare PPO without Prescription Drugs is available only to retirees with Medicare who have a standalone creditable Part D prescription drug plan through a non-UC insurance company. Proof may be requested (see page 5 regarding proof requirements).

### **IF YOU ARE A SAVINGS CHOICE MEMBER**

Savings Choice members who accumulate 10 years of service credit may be eligible for health and welfare coverage in retirement.

### **IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA**

For UC retirees who live outside California and whose covered family members are all eligible for Medicare, UC provides a Medicare Coordinator Program administered by Via Benefits. This program offers:

- Choice: a large selection of local plans, including Kaiser, where available
- Value: plans to fit every budget
- Flexibility: each family member can choose a separate plan to meet their needs
- Personalized support from Via Benefits

UC will provide an annual contribution under an HRA—health reimbursement arrangement—to help you pay for the Medicare plan you choose. Depending on your choice, there could be funds left in the HRA to cover additional out-of-pocket costs and Part B premiums. This process means you pay for your eligible expenses first and then get reimbursed; some recurring costs such as your monthly plan premium can be automated. Claims will be reimbursed based on what Medicare allows and the type of plan you selected. If you are covering family members, such as a spouse or domestic partner, UC will contribute to an additional HRA for them also.

## Via Benefits Medical Plans for Medicare Enrollees

### **BEFORE YOU TURN 65**

If you and your covered family member(s) have a home address outside California and are currently age 64, Via Benefits will be reaching out by mail to inform you of your future medical plan choices when you turn 65. Through their licensed benefits counselors, you will receive personalized and unbiased guidance to help you choose and enroll in a Medicare plan that meets your personal health care needs and budget. The outreach will begin one calendar year before your 65th birthday. You will be enrolled in the month you turn 65, and your UC group medical coverage will end on the last day of the prior month.

Please contact the UC Retirement Administration Service Center if you have questions about your eligibility for the Medicare Coordinator Program.

### **IF YOU'RE RETIRING, 65 OR OVER, AND MOVING**

If you plan to move outside of California at retirement and are Medicare-eligible, you must change your home address to start your enrollment into Via Benefits. Doing so will ensure the HRA amount is sent to Via Benefits within the time allotted by Medicare for you to enroll in a new medical plan.

For example, if you are eligible for the Medicare Coordinator Program and you retire July 1, your UC coverage would end on July 31 and your Via Benefits coverage would begin on August 1.

Contact the UC Retirement Administration Service Center at least one month prior to your retirement date if you changed your home address and believe you are eligible, but you did not receive an enrollment packet from Via Benefits.

### **WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT**

When you turn 64, you will receive:

- Quarterly letter(s) preparing you for enrollment with Via Benefits
- A Via Benefits Enrollment Guide with information on what to expect
- Phone calls from Via Benefit representatives to ensure you have both Parts A and B in place prior to your 65th birthday, and answer any questions you may have
- A Funding Packet about your HRA, once you've selected a medical plan

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO**

- Make sure your home address and contact information is current. You can make corrections using UCRAYS; see [ucal.us/retireehelp](http://ucal.us/retireehelp) for instructions.
- Enroll in Medicare, if you qualify, as soon as you are eligible. If you do not qualify, you may be eligible under a former, current or deceased spouse. See pages 5, 7 and/or call Social Security for more information.
- Read all mailings from UC and Via Benefits immediately to enroll within the time period allotted by Medicare. Missing your Medicare Special Enrollment Period may leave you with Original Medicare coverage only.
- See the Medicare Coordinator Program page on UCnet ([ucal.us/medicarecoordinator](http://ucal.us/medicarecoordinator)) for additional information.

If you want to learn more about Via Benefits, please call 855-359-7381 (TTY: 711) and identify yourself as a UC member or visit [my.viabenefits.com/uc](http://my.viabenefits.com/uc).

## What You Pay for Services

The following charts give some examples of what you might expect to pay for medical services. These are examples; your actual costs, coverage and payments may be different. For more information, see your medical plan's Evidence of Coverage booklet available on [ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu).

	<b>Routine Medical Care Access</b>	<b>Doctor Visit</b>	<b>Hospitalization</b>	<b>Prescription Drug Copay (Generic/Brand/Non-Formulary)</b>
<b>Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage</b>	Kaiser plan providers and facilities	You pay \$20 copay; Medicare and plan pay the rest.  Wellness visit: No charge <sup>4</sup>	You pay \$250 copay per admittance. Medicare and plan pay the rest.	Retail (up to 30-day supply): \$5/\$25; 31–60-day supply: \$10/\$50; 61–100-day supply: \$15/\$75  Mail Order: Refills can be arranged up to 30-day supply: \$5/\$25; 31–100-day supply: \$10/\$50
<b>UC High Option Supplement to Medicare<sup>1</sup></b>	Any in- or out-of-network provider who accepts Medicare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicare pays 80% of Medicare allowable</li> <li>• Plan generally pays remaining 20%</li> </ul> Example: Medicare allowable: <sup>1</sup> \$150 Medicare pays: \$120 Plan pays: \$30 You pay: \$0  Wellness visit: No charge (deductible waived) <sup>4</sup>	First 60 days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan pays Medicare Part A Deductible (\$1,408 in 2020)</li> <li>• Medicare pays the balance</li> </ul> Days 61–90: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicare pays all but \$352 per day</li> <li>• Plan pays \$352 per day</li> <li>• You pay nothing</li> </ul> Days 91 and beyond <sup>3</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan pays 80% of eligible expenses</li> <li>• You pay 20% of eligible expenses</li> </ul>	Retail (30-day supply): \$10/\$30/\$45  Mail Order (90-day supply): \$20/\$60/\$90
<b>UC Medicare Choice</b>	Any in- or out-of-network provider who participates in Medicare and accepts the plan <sup>5</sup>	You pay \$20 copay; Medicare and plan pay the rest.  Wellness visit: No charge <sup>4</sup>	You pay \$250 copay per admittance. Medicare and plan pay the rest.	Retail (up to 30-day supply): \$5/\$25/\$40  Mail Order (31–90-day supply): \$10/\$50/\$80 Specialty drugs (up to 30-day supply): \$25; (31–90-day supply): \$50
<b>UC Medicare PPO<sup>1</sup></b> <b>UC Medicare PPO without Prescription Drugs<sup>1,2</sup></b>	Any in- or out-of-network provider who accepts Medicare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicare pays 80% of Medicare allowable</li> <li>• Plan pays 80% of remaining eligible expenses</li> <li>• You pay 20% of remaining eligible expenses plus any excess charges</li> </ul> Example: Medicare allowable: <sup>1</sup> \$150 Medicare pays: \$120 Plan pays 80% of balance: \$24 You pay: \$6  Wellness visit: No charge (deductible waived) <sup>4</sup>	First 60 days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan pays Medicare Part A Deductible (\$1,408 in 2020)</li> <li>• Medicare pays the balance</li> </ul> Days 61–90: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicare pays all but \$352 per day</li> <li>• Plan pays 80% of \$352 per day</li> <li>• You pay 20% (\$70.40) of \$352 per day</li> </ul> Days 91 and beyond <sup>3</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan pays 80% of eligible expenses</li> <li>• You pay 20% of eligible expenses</li> </ul>	<b>UC Medicare PPO:</b> Retail (30-day supply): \$10/\$30/\$45 Mail Order (90-day supply): \$20/\$60/\$90  <b>UC Medicare PPO without Prescription Drugs:</b> No prescription drug benefits

1 UC Medicare PPO, UC Medicare PPO without Prescription Drugs and UC High Option Supplement to Medicare examples assume that you have met your annual deductible, and that your doctor accepts Medicare assignment. After you meet your annual out-of-pocket maximum, your plan will pay 100% of your covered expenses. Actual charges for office visits are usually higher than the Medicare allowable amount. If your doctor does not accept Medicare assignment, you are also responsible for balance billing. Call the plan for details.

2 Retirees may enroll in this plan only if all enrolled family members have outpatient prescription drug coverage (as verified by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) through a non-UC Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

Emergency	Durable Medical Equipment	Vision Exams	Hearing Exams/ Hearing Aids	Chiropractor	Acupuncture
You pay \$65 copay (waived if admitted); Medicare and plan pay the rest.	No charge	\$20 (no charge for one Medicare-covered glaucoma screening per year)	Exam: \$20 Aids: Standard hearing aids every 36 months, \$2,500 maximum per ear (medically necessary)	\$20 (manual manipulation as covered by Medicare only); covered as medically necessary when approved by a plan provider	\$20; covered as medically necessary when approved by a plan provider
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You pay nothing</li> <li>Medicare and plan pay 100%</li> </ul>	No charge, if covered by Medicare	No charge when part of diabetes care or the Welcome to Medicare preventive visit, which must occur within the first 12 months of enrollment in Part B (coverage is for a simple vision test)	Exam: No cost after Medicare pays; for diagnostic exams if ordered by a physician Aids: 20% (maximum 2 hearing aids every 36 months, analog or digital)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare pays 80% of approved services (manual manipulation of the spine)</li> <li>Plan pays balance</li> <li>You pay nothing</li> <li>You pay all costs for other services or tests</li> </ul>	You pay 20% (deductible applies) (24 visit limit/ calendar year)
You pay \$65 copay (waived if admitted); Medicare and plan pay the rest.	No charge	\$20 (no charge for one Medicare-covered glaucoma screening per year)	Exam: \$20 Aids: Standard hearing aids (analog or digital) every 3 years at no charge (maximum \$2,000 combined ear allowance)	\$20 (24 visit limit/ plan year)	\$20 (24 visit limit/ plan year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare pays 80%</li> <li>Then plan pays 80% of the eligible balance</li> <li>You pay amount remaining</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare pays 80% of Medicare allowable</li> <li>Plan pays 80% of the balance</li> <li>You pay any remaining balance</li> </ul>	No charge when part of diabetes care or the Welcome to Medicare preventive visit, which must occur within the first 12 months of enrollment in Part B (coverage is for a simple vision test)	Exam: 20% after Medicare pays; for diagnostic exams if ordered by a physician Aids: 20% (maximum 2 hearing aids every 36 months, analog or digital)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare pays 80% of approved services (manual manipulation of the spine)</li> <li>Plan pays 80% of the balance</li> <li>You pay the remainder and all costs for other services or tests</li> </ul>	You pay 20% (deductible applies) (24 visit limit/ calendar year)

3 Costs are different if using 60 lifetime reserve days. See plan booklet for details.

4 Medicare covers an initial "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit and annual "Wellness" visits, where you and your doctor discuss and develop or update your personalized disease prevention plan. Note that you may be subject to copayments or coinsurance if you receive additional tests or services during the same visit that are not covered under the preventive benefits. See [medicare.gov](http://medicare.gov) for more information on Wellness visits.

5 Provider or hospital agrees to treat you and be paid according to UnitedHealthcare's payment schedule.

## What You Pay for Services

	Calendar Year Deductible <sup>1</sup>	Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum—Medical Benefits <sup>2</sup>	Prescription Drugs: Calendar Year Out-of-Pocket Maximums	Medical Services when Traveling Outside of U.S. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage</b>	\$0	\$1,500 per member per year	\$6,350 per member	Emergencies/urgent care covered; inpatient care requires authorization from the plan. HMO must be notified; you may need to file for reimbursement. For other services, the plan does not pay.
<b>UC High Option Supplement to Medicare<sup>3</sup></b>	\$50 per member <sup>6</sup>	\$1,050 per member	\$1,000 drug plan maximum out-of-pocket per member  \$6,350 true out-of-pocket limit per member <sup>5</sup>	You pay 20% of billed charges after deductible.
<b>UC Medicare Choice</b>	\$0	\$1,500 per member per year	\$2,000 drug plan maximum out-of-pocket per member  \$6,350 true out-of-pocket limit per member <sup>5</sup>	Emergencies, urgent care and routine care covered at same copay as within U.S.
<b>UC Medicare PPO<sup>3</sup></b>	\$100 per member <sup>6</sup>	\$1,500 per member	\$6,350 per member	You pay 20% of billed charges after deductible.
<b>UC Medicare PPO without Prescription Drugs<sup>3</sup></b>	\$100 per member <sup>6</sup>	\$1,500 per member	NA	You pay 20% of billed charges after deductible.

- 1 This is the amount you must pay before the medical plan begins to pay a percentage of the total cost of your benefits. Until this deductible is met, you pay the total cost of services not covered by Medicare. It's a good idea to review each plan's annual deductible and monthly premium carefully to decide which plan is the best for you.
- 2 The out-of-pocket maximum is the annual ceiling for your copayments or coinsurance during the calendar year. After you have paid this amount, the plan may pay benefits at 100 percent after Medicare. Some expenses, though, do not apply toward the maximum (for details, please see the Evidence of Coverage booklet for your plan).
- 3 Deductible applies to non-Medicare covered services only.
- 4 Consult the plan booklet or carrier for terms of coverage if your permanent address is outside the U.S.
- 5 A member may reach the \$6,350 True Out-of-Pocket (TrOOP) before the drug plan maximum out-of-pocket if they qualify for the coverage gap discount program.
- 6 Applies to non-Medicare Covered Services covered by this Plan and to Medicare Covered Services not paid by Medicare but paid by the Plan.

### LIFETIME MAXIMUM

There are no lifetime maximums for these plans. However, there are limits on some individual benefits. For details, please see the Evidence of Coverage booklet for your plan.



**Tip**

Use these resources to get more information about Medicare:

- UC Evidence of Coverage (EOC) Medicare plan booklets available at [ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu)
- *Medicare @ You* handbook available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
- Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) 800-434-0222
- Extra Help (low income subsidy) available at [www.ssa.gov/medicare/prescriptionhelp](http://www.ssa.gov/medicare/prescriptionhelp)
- *Medicare Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount—Life-Changing Event* (Form SSA-44) available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ssa-44.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ssa-44.pdf)

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