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Welcome to Medicare 2024

Medicare Part D

Presented by Contra Costa County
Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program
HICAP

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

SHIP
State Health Insurance
Program
Navigating Medicare

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SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud
April 8, 2024

Note: All costs are for 2024 unless otherwise noted

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What is HICAP?

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program

- All things Medicare
 - Education, Counseling & Advocacy
- Primarily a Volunteer Organization
 - Initial and Ongoing Training
 - Registered with California Department of Aging
- Funded by California and Federal Gov't
- No affiliation with Insurance Companies
 - No Policies Sold or Endorsed
- Free to you!

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After This Module You Will Know







- ✓ Medicare Part D: Prescription Drug Coverage and Costs

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Decide How to Get Medicare Coverage

Original Medicare (Fee for Service)	OR	Medicare Advantage Plan (Managed Care)
Part A Hospital Centers for Medicare Services 		Part C = A + B + D Hospital Medical 
Optional Add Medigap Private Insurance Companies 		Benefits Assigned to Private Plan Drugs 
Optional Add Part D Drugs Private Insurance Companies 		
Helps pay cost-sharing in A & B		Premium, co-pay & out-of-pocket limit vary by plan. May also offer additional benefits like dental.

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Part D: Prescription Drugs

- Must join a plan to get coverage (Part D or Advantage)
- During 7 month Initial and 2 month Special Enrollment Period or wait until Fall Annual Enrollment w/ penalty
- Can defer if have 'creditable' coverage, otherwise penalty
- IRMAA surcharge for higher incomes, assistance for lower
- Usually can't have duplicate coverage (Part D and Retiree)



Extra Help With Medicare Part D Premiums & Drug Plan Costs

- Extra Help with Part D Premiums and Drug Copays
 - For both stand-alone drug plans and Medicare Advantage Plans
- Income and asset assistance eligibility:
 - Income¹ less than \$1,903 (Single) / \$2,575 (Married)
 - Assets² less than \$17,220 (Single) / \$34,360 (Married)
- Apply directly at SSA.gov or HICAP can help!



¹ 2024 income. Some can be excluded. ² One home, one car and certain other assets excluded

Part D – Choosing a Plan

- If You Are Not Taking Any Medications

2024 Medicare Part D Stand-Alone Prescription Drug Plans
Requires Medicare Part A and/or Part B to qualify for Part D

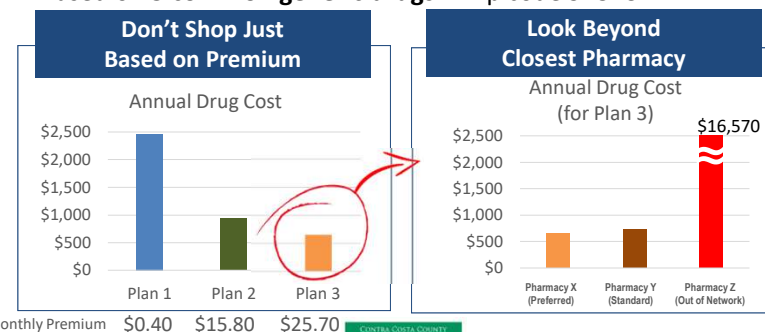
Plan Name	Plan Number	Annual Premium	Annual Deductible
Plan 1	1001	\$0.40	\$0
Plan 2	1002	\$15.80	\$0
Plan 3	1003	\$25.70	\$0

Handout

Prescription Drug Coverage

Choose Wisely

- Based on 5 common generic drugs in zip code 94523



Part D – Choosing a Plan Based on Your Medications

- Unless you take only 1 or 2 generics, you need to find a plan that covers your prescription drugs
- Medicare.gov **'Plan Finder'** tool is best way
 - Lets you find the lowest cost plan for this year for all your regular medications
 - Plan ratings, preferred pharmacies, restrictions
 - You can easily enroll online or use phone
- See us for 'Extra Help' for low income



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Medicare Plan Finder

- Search for plans to fit your:
 - Medication list
 - Zip code
 - Pharmacy options
- Available at the official Medicare.gov website
- Easy to enroll in plans on-line



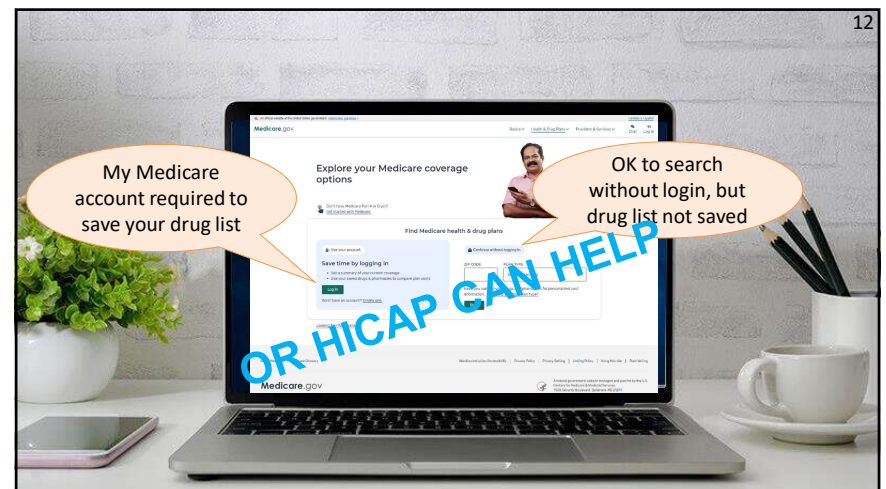
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Review Coverage Annually

• Prescription and Medicare Advantage plans

- Review your plan each year during Annual Enrollment Period (Oct 15– Dec 7)
- Plans change their costs, and providers each year
- Your needs may have changed
- Failure to make timely changes may mean increased costs or fewer options for the next year

• Medigap plans

- No Annual Enrollment Period in the Fall
- Use your Birthday to change

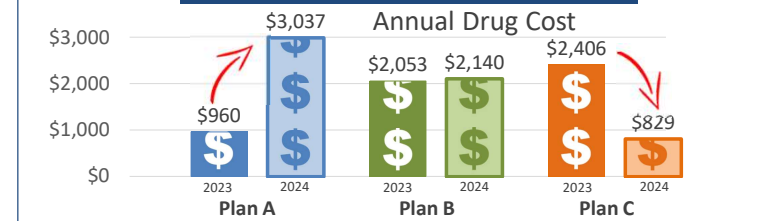


Prescription Drug Coverage

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**Don't Assume Last Year's Plan
Will Be the Best for Next Year**



Next Up...

View Module 5:

Medicare Advantage Plans
and Choosing Your Medicare Path



- ✓ Medicare Advantage (Part C)
- ✓ How do I choose: Medigap vs Medicare Advantage?
- ✓ When Can I Switch Paths?

Multiple Ways to Reach Us

Website: www.cchicap.org

Email: ehsdhicap@ehsd.cccounty.us

HICAP Office: (925) 655-1393,

(800) 510-2020 or (800) 434-0222



HICAP Service is free, private and impartial

One-on-one counseling, phone or virtual appointments

Handouts available on our HICAP website