

Important Dates for Medicare Enrollment

The following provides enrollment periods for those signing up for Medicare.

Medicare eligibility begins at age 65. Those who have health care coverage from their employer do not have to enroll in Medicare. However, there are specific enrollment periods and penalties that can apply if enrollment instructions are not followed carefully.

	Dates	Who Needs to Enroll?	Comments
Initial Enrollment	Seven-month period: ▲ Three months before 65th birthday ▲ Birthday month ▲ Three months after 65th birthday	Enrollees in Medicare Parts A, B, C and D	▲ If you are receiving Social Security benefits prior to age 65, you will be automatically enrolled. ▲ Unless you can waive coverage, a late enrollment penalty of 10 percent of the Part B premium is assessed for every 12 months you delay signing up.
Special Enrollment	Within eight months after you stop working	Those about to lose employer coverage and have delayed enrolling in Part B	Separate special enrollment periods also exist for Part C and D plans.
General Enrollment	January 1 to March 31	Those who missed the initial enrollment or special enrollment period for Parts A and B	Coverage becomes effective July 1.
Annual Election	November 15 to December 31	Those who missed the initial enrollment for Part D, or want to change/drop their current drug plan	You have to be enrolled in Parts A and B first.
Medicare Advantage Enrollment	January 1 to March 31	Those who want to join, drop or change a Medicare Advantage Plan	

Glossary

Part A is hospital coverage.

Part B is medical insurance.

Part C involves Medicare Advantage plans.

Part D is prescription drug coverage.

Copyright © 2010, Buckingham Family of Financial Services. This material and any opinions contained are derived from sources believed to be reliable, but its accuracy and the opinions based thereon are not guaranteed. The content of this publication is for general information only and is not intended to serve as specific financial, accounting or tax advice. To be distributed only by a Registered Investment Advisor firm. Information regarding references to third-party sites: Referenced third-party sites are not under our control, and we are not responsible for the contents of any linked site or any link contained in a linked site, or any changes or updates to such sites. Any link provided to you is only as a convenience, and the inclusion of any link does not imply our endorsement of the site.