

PATIENTS
RISING
UNIVERSITY

www.PatientRisingU.org

GETTING THE MOST
OUT OF MEDICARE



FEATURING

Alyse Potesman

- Medicare experience from living with Multiple endocrine neoplasia and chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia.
- Master's Degrees in Learning Disability and Educational Administration
- Repeat Contributor to Patients Rising



FEATURING

Carl Hohsfield Jr.

- Association for Mature American Citizens (AMAC), Director of Senior Sales
- Communications and Journalism with a focus on Public Relations
- Responsibilities include development of AMAC's market reach in Medicare and Medicare-related products.



PATIENTS
RISING
NOW

FEATURING

Jim Sliney Jr

- Director of Patient Content, and Concierge
- Navigator at Patients Rising
- Medical Assistant
- Worked with rare and underserved disease populations for
- most of his career.

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MEDICARE: THE ABCs

MEDICARE PART A

- “Traditional Medicare”
- hospital care
- hospice care
- skilled nursing facilities

MEDICARE: THE ABCs

MEDICARE PART B

- “Traditional Medicare”
- doctors’ appointments
- outpatient hospital / some outpatient prescriptions
- preventive care
- ambulance services
- some at-home healthcare

MEDICARE: THE ABCs

MEDICARE PART C

- “Medicare Advantage”
- offered by private insurance companies
- premiums vary
- Does not cover hospice

MEDICARE: THE ABCs

MEDICARE PART D

- “Drug plan”
- Covers prescription drugs only
- Optional
- Medicare Advantage covers prescriptions

MEDICARE: IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Age of Eligibility

- [3 months – 65th birthday – 3 months]
- Enrollment NOT automatic

MEDICARE: IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

If you delay...

- 10% higher premium for every 12-months you didn't enroll
- E.g.: enroll at 70, pay 50% higher premiums every year, FOREVER

MEDICARE: IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Open Enrollment Periods:

- Medicare (A, B, D) =
October 15 – December 7
- Medicare Advantage (C) =
January 1 – March 31

MEDIGAP AND MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Medigap

- Supplemental insurance
- Covers copays, coinsurance, deductibles
- may cover care outside of US
- BEST DEAL – sign up within 6 months of 65

MEDIGAP AND MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Medicare Advantage - Pros

- Must cover at least Medicare A & B
- Can be cheaper for 'heavy users'
- maximum annual out of pocket
- May offer vision, dental, hearing

MEDIGAP AND MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Medicare Advantage - Cons

- Some referrals required
- Plans are region-specific
- Plans have networks, which limit choices

FORMULARIES

- List of prescription drugs available
- Affordable to stay within formulary
- Can request exceptions
- Formularies change often

FORMULARIES

- Tier One – less expensive, lower copays, generics
- Tier Two – brand names, medium copays
- Tier Three – non-preferred brand names, high copay
- Specialty Tier – high cost prescriptions

WHERE TO GET HELP

- (SHIP) State Health Insurance Program
- Assistance to the Medicare eligible
- Open enrollment help
- Guidance on payment policies
- **Shiptacenter.org**

WHERE TO GET HELP

- MEDICARE RIGHTS CENTER
- Advice, education and advocacy
- Toolkits and checklists
- \$ Assistance for low-income
- **Medicarerights.org**

WHERE TO GET HELP

- AMAC Association for Mature American Citizens
- Senior resources network
- Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans
- **AMAC.US**

COST SAVING

- (In MA plans)
- Keep costs down by staying in-network

- Mail order prescriptions

FREE STUFF

- Several free “preventive or screening” services
- e.g. cancer, heart disease, depression screenings
- Free “Welcome to Medicare” visit w/in 12mo of enrollment
- Free yearly “wellness” visit

QUESTIONS

I am a Myeloma patient. We have insurance through work that covered most of my initial treatment. The drugs are UNBELIEVABLY expensive. Just one, Revlimid (a pill) is currently \$22,314.00 per month!

What is the best way to handle the Medicare "donut hole" in setting up our Medicare account and supplemental insurance?

- Mike V.

ANSWER

You are the prime example of why Medicare Part D must have an out of pocket cap.

Ironically, I would start with the drug company's patient support:

<https://www.revlimid.com/financial-assistance>

Tell them your situation and they can help you find ways to get support. They cannot provide support to Medicare patients directly but there are outside entities like the PAN Foundation and Patient Advocate Foundation that can.

- Terry Wilcox

TRIVIA

If you sign up during Open Enrollment your coverage won't start until the nearest January or July

TRIVIA

Medicare part A and B usually do not work outside of the United States

Medicare Advantage or Medigap might

TRIVIA

Medicare will cover your medical care on a
cruise ship

IF the ship is within 6 hours of a U.S. port

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THANK YOU!