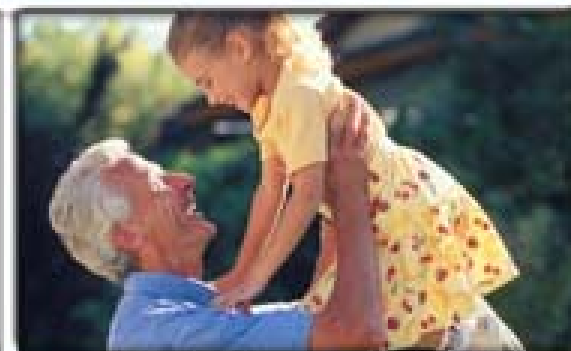




National Medicare TRAINING PROGRAM

Welcome to Medicare!

Module 1A



Welcome to Medicare

- Introduction to Medicare
- Original Medicare Plan
- Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap)
- Medicare Advantage and other Medicare plans
- Medicare prescription drug coverage
- Medicaid and Medicare Savings Programs

What Is Medicare?

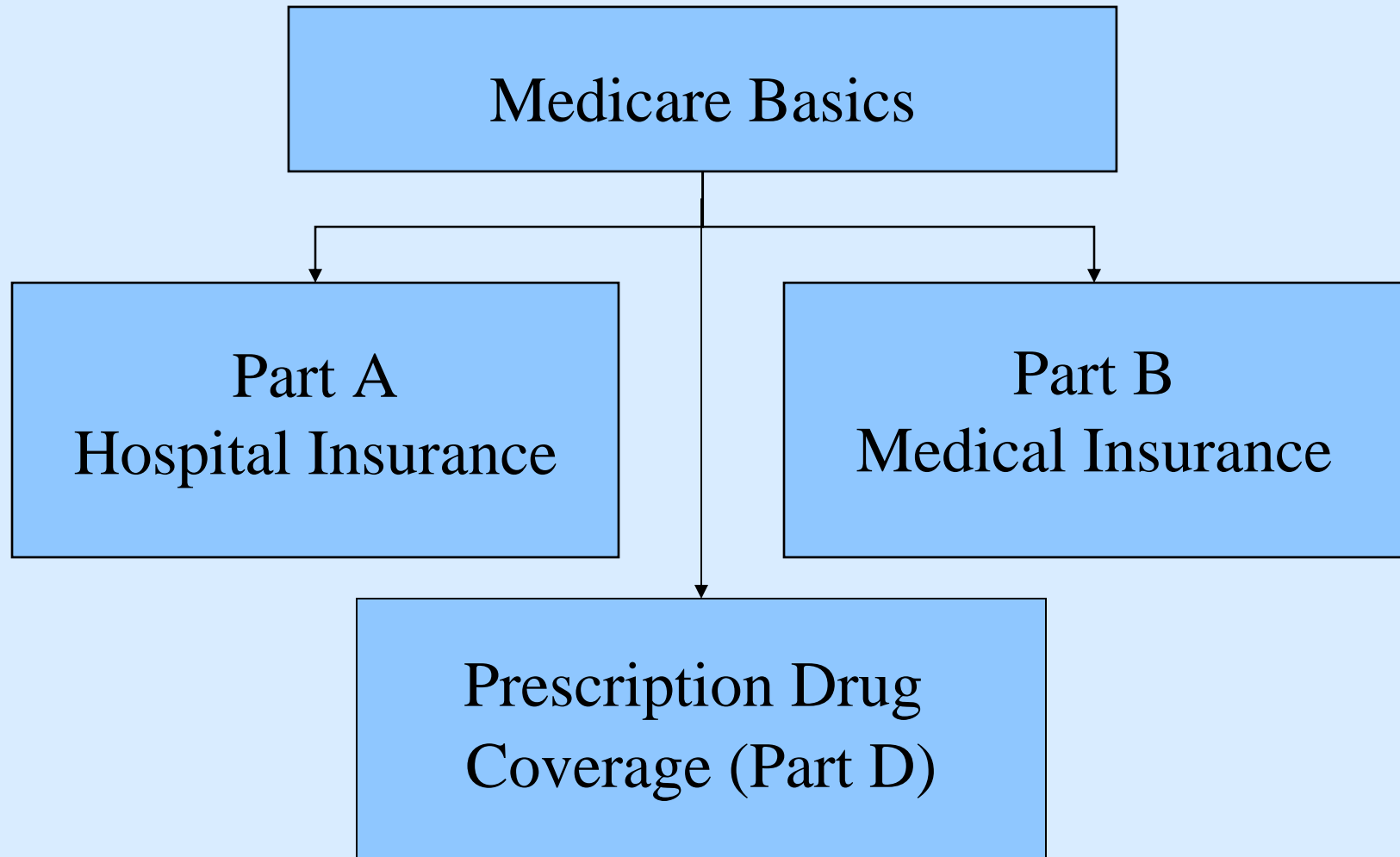
- Health insurance for
 - People 65 years of age and older
 - People under age 65 with certain disabilities
 - People of all ages with End-Stage Renal Disease
- Managed by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Sign up with Social Security Administration (SSA) or Railroad Retirement Board (RRB)

Applying for Medicare

- Apply 3 months before age 65
 - Don't have to be retired
 - Contact Social Security Administration
- Enrollment automatic if you get Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits



Medicare



Medicare Coverage Basics

Part A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Inpatient hospital care■ Skilled nursing care■ Home health care■ Hospice care
Part B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Doctors' services and outpatient care■ Preventive services■ Diagnostic tests■ Some therapies■ Durable medical equipment
Part D	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Outpatient prescription drugs

Medicare Part A

- Most people don't pay a monthly premium for Part A
- People with less than 10 years of Medicare-covered work
 - Can still get Part A
 - Will pay a premium
- For information about Part A eligibility
 - Call Social Security Administration
 - 1-800-772-1213
 - TTY users call 1-800-325-0778

Enrolling in Medicare Part B

- You choose whether or not to enroll in Part B
 - Will pay monthly Part B premium
 - \$96.40 in 2008
- Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)
 - 7 months starting 3 months before month eligible
- General Enrollment Period (GEP)
 - January 1 through March 31 each year
 - Coverage begins July 1
 - Premium penalty, in most cases

Enrolling in Medicare Part B

- Some people can delay enrolling in Part B with no penalty
 - If have employer or union group health plan
 - Based on your or your spouse's current job
 - Will get a Special Enrollment Period (SEP)
 - Sign up within 8 months after coverage ends

Paying the Part B Premium

- Taken out of monthly payments
 - Social Security
 - Railroad retirement
 - Federal government retirement
- For information about premiums
 - Call SSA, RRB, or Office of Personnel Management

Medicare Plan Choices

- Original Medicare Plan
- Medicare Advantage Plans
- Other Medicare Plans
- Medicare Prescription Drug Plans

Original Medicare Plan

- Go to any health care provider that accepts Medicare
- For Part A services in 2008, you pay
 - \$1024 deductible for hospital stays up to 60 days
 - Additional costs after 60 days
 - Different costs for other Part A services
- For Part B services in 2008, you pay
 - \$135 annual deductible
 - 20% coinsurance for most Part B services
- Some programs may help with costs

Medigap

■ Health insurance policy

- Sold by private insurance companies
- Must say “Medicare Supplement Insurance”
- Covers “gaps” in Original Medicare Plan
 - Deductibles, coinsurance, copayments
 - Does not work with Medicare Advantage Plans
- Up to 12 standardized plans A – L
 - Except in Massachusetts, Minnesota, Wisconsin
 - So you can compare easily

How Medigap Works

- You can buy a Medigap policy
 - Within 6 months of enrolling in Part B
 - If you lose certain kinds of health coverage through no fault of your own
 - If you leave your Medicare Advantage Plan
 - In some cases
 - Whenever the company will sell you one
- Pay a monthly premium
- Generally go to any doctor or specialist

Medicare Advantage Plans

- Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Plans
 - Some have Point-of-Service option
- Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Plans
- Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS) Plans
- Special Needs Plans
 - Low Income
 - Those with certain conditions
- Medicare Medical Savings Account (MSA) Plans
 - New in 2007

Other Medicare Plans

- Medicare Cost Plans
- Demonstrations/Pilot Programs
- Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

Eligibility for Medicare Advantage

- Live in plan's service area
- Have Medicare Part A and Part B
 - Continue to pay Part B premium
 - May also pay monthly premium to plan
- Don't have ESRD at enrollment
 - Some exceptions

How Medicare Advantage Plans Work

- Usually get all Part A and B services through plan
 - May have to use the plan's providers
- May get extra benefits
 - Vision, hearing, dental services
 - Prescription drug coverage
- Still in Medicare program
 - Get all Part A and Part B services
 - Have Medicare rights and protections

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

- Coverage began January 1, 2006
- All people with Medicare can join a plan
- Provided through
 - Medicare Prescription Drug Plans
 - Medicare Advantage and other Medicare plans
 - Some employers and unions

Enrollment Periods

■ Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)

- 7 months
- Starts 3 months before month eligible for Medicare

■ Annual Coordinated Election Period (AEP)

- November 15 through December 31 each year
- Can join, drop, or switch coverage
 - Effective January 1 of following year

■ Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

Late Enrollment Penalty

- If you wait to enroll
 - Additional 1% of national base premium for every month eligible but not enrolled
 - Must pay the penalty as long as enrolled in a Medicare drug plan
- No penalty if you have other coverage at least as good as Medicare drug coverage

Medicare Prescription Drug Plans

- At a minimum, must offer standard benefit
 - In 2008 you may pay
 - Monthly premiums
 - Annual deductible, no more than \$275
 - Copayments or coinsurance
 - Very little after \$4,050 out-of-pocket
- May offer more benefits
- Can get plan information and costs
 - www.medicare.gov
 - 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

Extra Help With Drug Costs

- Available for many people with limited income and resources
 - Income limit in 2007
 - \$1,276.25/month (one person)
 - \$1,711.25/month (married couple)
 - Resource limit
 - \$11,990 (one person)
 - \$23,970 (married couple)

Extra Help With Drug Costs

- People with lowest income and resources
 - Pay no premiums or deductibles
 - Have small or no copayments
- Those with slightly higher income and resources
 - Pay no or a reduced premium
 - Have a reduced deductible
 - Pay a little more out of pocket

Eligibility for Extra Help

- You may automatically qualify if you have Medicare and
 - Get full Medicaid benefits or
 - Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or
 - Get help from Medicaid paying your Medicare premiums
- Others must apply and qualify

Medicaid

- Federal and state program
 - For some people with limited income and resources
- If eligible, most health care costs covered
- Each state decides
 - Who is eligible
 - How people apply
- Office names vary
 - Social Services
 - Public Assistance
 - Human Services

Other Savings Programs

- Medicare Savings Programs
 - Help from Medicaid paying Medicare premiums
 - For people with limited income and resources
 - May also pay deductibles and coinsurance
- State programs
- PACE

For More Information

- 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
 - TTY users call 1-877-486-2048
- www.medicare.gov
- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)
- *Medicare & You* handbook
 - Other publications

Summary

- Medicare coverage
- Original Medicare Plan
- Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap)
- Medicare Advantage and other Medicare plans
- Medicare prescription drug coverage
- Medicaid and Medicare Savings Programs

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