

# Medicare and the FOREIGN SERVICE BENEFIT PLAN



## Putting it Together



Reaching age 65 is an important milestone. Many people choose to retire at that time and it is also the point at which most people become eligible for Medicare. This guide will help you understand Medicare's features and how these benefits work with your **Foreign Service Benefit Plan (FSBP)** coverage.

## What is Medicare?

Medicare is a health insurance program for:

- People age 65 or older
- Certain people under age 65 who have disabilities
- People of any age with End-Stage Renal Disease

While **FSBP** provides for coverage of eligible family members, Medicare does not. Medicare provides for individual coverage to those who meet Medicare's enrollment criteria. Your eligible family members still can be covered under your **FSBP** benefits when you maintain a Self Plus One or Family enrollment.

Medicare provides health care benefits for services rendered (in the U.S. only) like most other health insurances, but it does not cover everything. Consider keeping your **FSBP** coverage to help pay what is left after Medicare pays its benefits.



### So how can you save money?

Signing up for Medicare may help you save money. With Medicare Parts A and B, **FSBP** lowers your costs by waiving deductibles and coinsurance. Additionally, opting in to the **FSBP** - Aetna Medicare Advantage plan allows you to receive a Part B premium reduction of \$900 per person, per year.

It's time to make a decision regarding your Medicare coverage.



## Part A: Hospital Insurance

It helps pay your hospital expenses like:

- Inpatient hospital care (not observation care, which is outpatient)
- Hospice care services
- Limited inpatient care in a skilled nursing facility (SNF) – NOT custodial or long term care

### Part A: Quick Fact

- Everyone eligible for premium-free Part A should enroll — whether working or retired — as soon as you reach age 65



## Part B: Medical Insurance

### It helps pay your medical expenses like:

- Doctors' services and tests
- Outpatient hospital services, including observation care
- Limited home health services (must be homebound)
- Durable medical equipment
- Kidney dialysis
- Certain preventive and screening services

**Participating** providers (who accept Medicare assignment) agree to:

- Bill Medicare for patient services
- Be paid by Medicare (receive the amount Medicare approves for their services)
- Charge only the Medicare deductible and/or coinsurance amount

**FSBP** will pay cost-sharing (deductibles and coinsurance).

**Non-participating** providers (who do not accept Medicare assignment):

- The Medicare approved amount is lower than for participating providers
- Physicians can charge only up to the limiting charge (115% of the Medicare approved amount)

**FSBP** will pay regular cost-sharing up to the limiting charge.

**Private Contract (Opt Out)** providers may ask you to sign a private contract agreeing to be billed directly for services ordinarily covered by Original Medicare, that is, the provider may have opted out of the entire Medicare Program. Should you sign an agreement:

- Original Medicare, other Medicare plans and Medigap plans will NOT pay
- You are responsible for ALL charges
- No claim can be submitted to Medicare

**FSBP** will pay only the amount we would have paid as if Medicare had made payment (generally 20%), and you are responsible for all charges beyond the **FSBP** payment.



**Provider types are important as they relate to what Medicare Part B pays and what FSBP pays.** This chart displays an example of how your expenses can change, depending on the category of provider you visit.:

	Participating	Non-participating	Private Contract
Billed amount	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Medicare approved amount	\$800	\$760	\$800
Medicare limiting charge		\$874	
Medicare pays	\$640	\$608	\$0
<b>FSBP</b> pays	\$160	\$266	\$160
<b>Your liability</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$840</b>

### Part B Quick Facts

- Enrollment in Part B is voluntary at age 65
- You must pay a monthly premium, subject to Means Testing based on your Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI), as filed on your 1040 tax return
- You may pay a penalty, if you are not enrolled at first opportunity and enroll at a later date
- You can defer Part B under certain situations, such as being covered under a group health plan **based on current employment**

**NOTE:** Since Medicare generally does NOT cover services overseas, **FSBP** will pay normal benefits for treatment you receive abroad. You must file your overseas claims directly with **FSBP**.

## Signing up for Medicare Part B

### Initial Enrollment Period

- Seven months — the three months before your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, the month of your birthday, and the three months after your birthday

### Special Enrollment Period (if you remain actively employed beyond your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday)

- Eight month period after your employment ends or current employment group health plan ends
- **Retiree health plans don't count as "current"**
- Required forms: CMS-40B application and CMS-L564 proof of current employment coverage (signed by employer)
- Start early! Have HR complete shortly before your retirement date

### General Enrollment Period

- Annually — January–March

### Part B Late Enrollment Penalty

- If you don't enroll in Medicare Part B when you first become eligible, your Part B premiums will be 10% higher for each full 12-month period you didn't enroll
- You will pay this penalty for as long as you have Medicare

### In summary — if you are retired, over age 65 and have Medicare:

Medicare A & B will be the primary payor. **FSBP** will work closely with Medicare to:

- Fill most of the gaps in Medicare benefits for services covered by them (be aware of SNF limits for both Medicare and **FSBP**)
- Coordinate coverage with Medicare

You generally have little or no liability. Plus, you retain the excellent prescription drug benefits that **FSBP** will continue to cover.

Learn how to sign up for Medicare on the back of this brochure.

## Part C: Medicare Advantage

Medicare approved comprehensive type options offered by private insurers

### Part C Quick Facts

- **FSBP** offers the **FSBP** - Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan to members who are enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B as the primary payor. Enrollment:
  - Is voluntary
  - Can be opted in or out of at any time
  - Enhances your FEHB coverage by lowering/eliminating cost-sharing for certain services
  - Offers additional benefits (i.e. vision, dental, podiatry) at no additional cost

### Get a complete Medicare Advantage plan without having to suspend your FEHB coverage

Opting in to **FSBP** - Aetna Medicare Advantage plan offers added programs to help you reach your health goals.

To learn more, visit [AetnaRetireeHealth.com/FSBP](http://AetnaRetireeHealth.com/FSBP) or call 1-866-241-0262 (TTY: 711), Monday-Friday, 8 AM to 8 PM ET.

## Part D: Prescription Drug Plans (PDP)

Prescription drug coverage offered by Medicare approved private insurers

### Part D Quick Facts

- Costs vary by plan
- Most people will pay:
  - Monthly premium (Means Testing and MAGI applies)
  - Deductibles, copays, and coinsurance
- Federal retirees likely will not benefit from enrolling in Medicare Part D and paying extra for prescription drug benefits. **FSBP** remains the primary payor for most of your prescription drugs
- Part D Late Enrollment Penalty – If you lose or drop your FEHBP coverage and go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage, your Medicare Part D premium will go up at least 1% per month for each month you did not have that coverage. You will pay this penalty for as long as you have Part D

## Now for Something Different

### Highlights of the new FSBP Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan

- No additional premium cost
- \$900 per year (\$75 monthly) Medicare Part B premium reduction for eligible members
- Added programs such as SilverSneakers® fitness, Healthy Home Visits, a nonemergency transportation program and meals after a hospital discharge at no extra cost
- Unlimited physical, occupational and speech therapy visits
- Prescription coverage as low as \$0 from preferred pharmacies and \$2 from standard pharmacies
- Access to doctors nationwide (use any doctor who is eligible to receive Medicare payment and accepts the Aetna plan)

### What if you DON'T enroll in Medicare Part B?

- **FSBP** provides the same excellent coverage, only with no coordination of benefits
- You will have regular out-of-pocket expenses
- Federal law limits your liability to some extent
- If your physician participates with Medicare, then he/she cannot charge more than the Medicare approved amount
- If your physician does not participate with Medicare, then he/she can charge only up to the limiting charge (115% of Medicare approved amount) – excludes Opt-out physicians

To learn more visit [AetnaRetireeHealth.com/FSBP](https://www.aetna.com/retireehealth) or call **1-866-241-0262** (TTY: 711), Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 8 PM ET.

It is always a good idea to use a provider who participates in the **FSBP** network. In-network providers agree to limit what they will bill you:

If your physician:	Then you are responsible for:
Participates with Medicare and is a member of our network	Your in-network deductibles and coinsurance
Participates with Medicare and is not a member of our network	Your out-of-network deductibles and coinsurance
Does not participate with Medicare and is a member of our network	Your in-network deductibles, coinsurance, and any balance, up to 115% of the Medicare approved amount
Does not participate with Medicare and is not a member of our network	Your out-of-network deductibles, coinsurance, and any balance, up to 115% of the Medicare approved amount
Opts-out of Medicare via private contract	Your deductibles, coinsurance, copayments, and any balance your physician charges

**NOTE: It is generally to your financial advantage to use a physician who participates with Medicare. Such physicians are permitted to collect only up to the Medicare approved amount.**



## In Summary

Apply for Medicare – even if you're not ready to retire, but are reaching, or already over 65. Everyone eligible for premium-free Part A should enroll, regardless of employment status. However, enrolling in Medicare Part B is a personal choice. We hope this brochure assists you in making that decision.

### Ways to apply for Medicare Part A and/or Part B.

1. Online – Visit [ssa.gov/benefits/medicare](https://ssa.gov/benefits/medicare)
2. By phone – Call 1-800-772-1213 or 1-800-325-0778 (TTY)
3. In-person – Visit your local Social Security office
4. Outside the U.S. – Enroll at your nearest U.S. Social Security office, usually inside the U.S. Embassy Consulate. Learn more at [medicare.gov/manage-your-health/information-for-my-situation/im-outside-the-us](https://medicare.gov/manage-your-health/information-for-my-situation/im-outside-the-us)

For Questions or to enroll in **FSBP-Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan**, visit [AetnaRetireeHealth.com/FSBP](https://AetnaRetireeHealth.com/FSBP) or call 1-866-241-0262 (TTY: 711), Monday-Friday, 8 AM to 8 PM ET.

### Resources to help you find more answers.

- [opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/medicare](https://opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/medicare)
- [ssa.gov](https://ssa.gov)
- [medicare.gov](https://medicare.gov)
- [medicare.gov/sign-up-change-plans](https://medicare.gov/sign-up-change-plans)

If you have questions about coordinating your **FSBP** benefits with Medicare, call us at **202-833-4910** or email us at [health@afspa.org](mailto:health@afspa.org).



**For more information or questions, please contact us:**

### **American Foreign Service Protective Association**

Hours of Operation – Monday–Friday  
8:30am to 5:30pm (EST)

**Email:** [afspa@afspa.org](mailto:afspa@afspa.org)

**Website:** [afspa.org](https://afspa.org)

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[afspa.org/fsbp](https://afspa.org/fsbp)

Note: This brochure content is accurate as of Spring 2023.

This is a summary of the features of the **FOREIGN SERVICE BENEFIT PLAN (FSBP)**. For a complete description, please read the Plan's Federal Brochure (RI 72-001). All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the Federal brochure. This is also a summary of Medicare features. For more information about Medicare, call 1-800-MEDICARE, or visit [medicare.gov](https://medicare.gov).