

MAKING MEDICARE MAKE SENSE

Answers To Some of The Most Commonly Asked Medicare Questions

Q: What is Medicare's Online Website for Beneficiaries to Set-up a Personal Account to Keep Track of Their Medicare Information?

A: MyMedicare.gov is an online way to get personalized Medicare information. Medicare automatically mails instructions and a password for www.Mymedicare.gov to people who are newly eligible. If you've had Medicare for a while, you will need to go to the website, www.MyMedicare.gov and register by selecting "begin the registration process." You will need to enter your Medicare card number. Your Medicare number is located on your red, white and blue Medicare card. You will receive your password by mail in about 14 days, but if you provide your email address when you register, your password will be emailed to you right away. Then you will use your password to access your Mymedicare.gov personal account. You will also be able to change the password that is emailed to you to create your own personal password.

Once online you can do the following on this site,

- Track your health care claims
- Check your Part B deductible status
- View your eligibility information
- Track your usage of preventive services
- Find your Medicare health or prescription plan or search for a new one and track your drug costs

The popular web tool allows you to keep all of your Medicare information in one convenient place. For example, you may want to see when the claims for your health care services are paid by Medicare, or you may want track how much you've spent out-of-pocket towards your \$135 Part B deductible (what you pay each year before Medicare begins to pay its share for some Medicare Part B services).

Using Mymedicare.gov, you, your family or a caregiver can even track which Medicare preventive services you have used each year, and remind you of those services you are eligible for but haven't utilized. For example, Medicare covers preventive services like screening mammograms, prostate cancer screenings, and flu shots and many more screenings and immunizations. On MyMedicare.gov you will get reminders about taking advantage of these benefits.

There's also a tab -- "My Drug Costs" that organizes and keeps track of all of your prescription drug costs and spending.

Mymedicare.gov now includes:

- A glossary of the terms used by Medicare
- A Spanish version of mymedicare.gov.
- Easier viewing of your Medicare claims online
- A printer friendly format of your claims

For more information about Medicare, visit our consumer website at www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-Medicare (1--800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You can also contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program, which provides free Medicare counseling and assistance. For this local free help over the phone or in person, call 1-800-Medicare and ask for your State's Health Insurance Assistance Program.