



# How does Medicare work?

Medicare is the nation’s largest health insurance program, covering health care services such as hospital stays, skilled nursing and physician services for millions of Americans.

There are four parts to Medicare, each providing different types of health care services.

## Part A



### Hospital Insurance

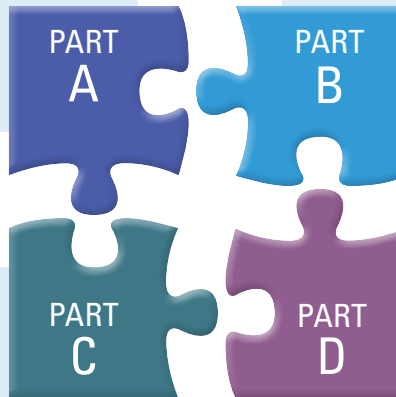
Helps pay for inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing facility care, home health care and hospice care. While most Americans are enrolled automatically in Medicare Part A, it alone may not cover all of your health care costs. Parts B, C and D are voluntary programs that provide additional coverage.



## Part B

### Medical Insurance

Helps pay for covered doctor’s services and many other medical services and supplies. If you don’t enroll in Part B when you are first eligible for Medicare, you may have to pay a penalty later.



## Part C

### Medicare Advantage Plans

Offers medical coverage through a network of providers, such as an HMO or PPO, that is an alternative to Original Medicare (Parts A & B). These plans may or may not cover prescription drugs.



## Part D

### Prescription Drug Coverage

Helps pay for covered prescription medications. As with Part B, selecting a Part D plan when you are first eligible means you may not have to pay a penalty later.

## Medicare Supplement Insurance



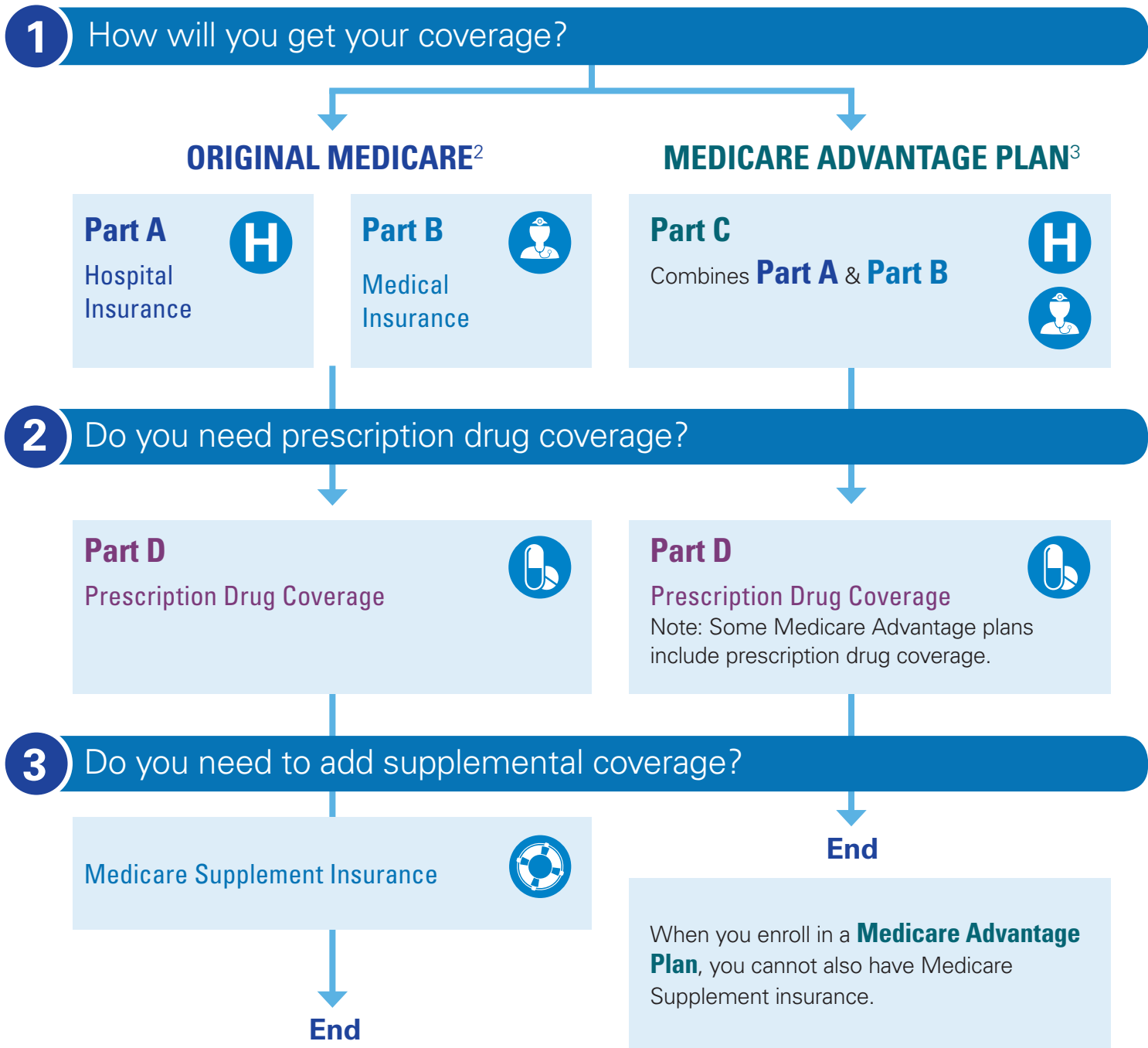
Optional coverage helps to pay for expenses beyond what is covered by Medicare. There are several Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans, each with different benefits and premiums, so you can choose the plan that works best for your specific needs. Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans are identified by the separate letters A, B, C, D, F, F-HD, G, G-HD, K, L, M and N.<sup>1</sup> The basic benefits of each plan are exactly alike for all insurance companies.

<sup>1</sup> Not all plans offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois.

Not connected with or endorsed by the U.S. Government or Federal Medicare Program.

# Understanding Your Medicare Choices

You can choose from two paths to reach the Medicare coverage you need. Here's how:



<sup>2</sup> You are free to use any hospital or physician that is a Medicare contracted provider.

<sup>3</sup> You must use network hospitals and doctors for maximum coverage and in non-emergency medical situations.

Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans are offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-877-774-8592 (TTY: 711).

UWAGA: Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 1-877-774-8592 (TTY: 711).