

## Extended Medicare

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### Background:

- ◆ A Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiary is entitled to Medicare coverage after 24 months of SSDI eligibility.
  - Medicare Part A, hospital insurance, is automatic and cost free.
  - Medicare Part B, covering outpatient services, is optional. It carries a monthly premium of \$ 109 for most people in 2017. Most new beneficiaries in 2017 will have premium of \$ 134 per month. A small number of beneficiaries - individuals with income exceeding \$85,000 and married couples with income exceeding \$170,000 - will pay a higher Part B premium based on their income.
  - Medicare Part D, covering prescription drugs, is optional and may require out-of-pocket expenses for premiums, co-payments, and deductibles.

### The Extended Medicare Provisions:

- ◆ When an SSDI beneficiary goes to work for the first time:
  - Medicare continues for a nine-month trial work period and at least 93 more additional months.
  - This means that the SSDI beneficiary who goes to work can keep Medicare for at least 102 months (or, nearly eight and one half years).
- ◆ Medicare Part A continues to be automatic and cost-free. Part B continues to be optional and subject to premium payment. The Part D prescription drug program would also continue to be available during this extended eligibility period.

**NOTE:** Your local Medicaid office can, in many cases, pay for the Medicare Part B premium. This is usually done under one of three “Medicare Savings Plans”: the Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB) program, the Selected Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB) program, or the Qualified Individuals (QI-1) program for individuals with low income. A Medicare Part D beneficiary may qualify for Extra Help (i.e., the low-income subsidy) to avoid or minimize many of the out-of-pocket expenses related to monthly premiums, deductibles and copayments.

For information about the Medicare Savings Programs and eligibility criteria, see our “at-a-glance” on that topic, call your benefits adviser, call your local Medicaid office, or call our Work Incentives Hotline (toll-free) at 1-888-224-3272. For information about the Part D low-income subsidy call your benefits adviser, our toll-free number, or go to the [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) website.

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