



# NEW TO MEDICARE CHECKLIST

## 4-6 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR MONTH OF ELIGIBILITY:

- Confirm your eligibility for Medicare benefits.**
  - Contact the Social Security Administration.
  - (Railroad retirees contact the Railroad Retirement Board.)
- Review your current health insurance to see what happens after you become eligible for Medicare.**
  - Contact your Human Resources department or current health insurance company.
- Educate yourself on what Medicare covers and your different options for coverage and compare costs.**
  - Visit SHIINE's website for tools and materials.

## 3 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR MONTH OF ELIGIBILITY:

- Decide which Medicare option is best for you.**
  - Visit SHIINE's New to Medicare webpage.
- Check with your doctor(s) to see if they accept the Medicare coverage of your choice.**
  - Contact all your providers and local hospitals.

## 1-3 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR MONTH OF ELIGIBILITY:

- Enroll in Medicare Parts A & B.**
  - Enroll at Social Security Administration's website.
  - If you are enrolled in a high deductible health plan through your or your spouse's current employer review your decision to enroll in Medicare carefully.
- Enroll in a Medicare Supplement Plan (Medigap) OR a Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan.**
  - You only need one of these options. Do NOT enroll in both.
  - Visit SHIINE's website for educational materials, Medicare Supplement Guide and What to Know Before Joining a MA Plan.
- Enroll in a Part D Prescription Drug Plan.**
  - SHIINE can help you enroll.
  - If you are enrolled in a MA plan that includes prescription drug coverage, do NOT enroll in a Part D Plan.

*The listed steps may not be necessary for everyone.  
(Websites and contact information are listed on the back.)*

## Social Security Administration

Contact Social Security to determine when you are eligible for and to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B.

[www.SocialSecurity.gov](http://www.SocialSecurity.gov) or 1-800-772-1213

## Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Contact Medicare for questions on Medicare Parts A and B, Medicare Advantage (Part C) and Prescription Drug Plan (Part D) coverage, claims, and appeals.

[www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov) or 1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227)

## Senior Health Information and Insurance Education (SHIINE)

South Dakota's Senior Health Information and Insurance Education (SHIINE) program offers free, unbiased Medicare counseling and education. Contact SHIINE for education on about Medicare options, eligibility for programs providing Medicare cost savings, appeals and how to report fraud, errors and abuse.

[www.SHIINE.net](http://www.SHIINE.net)

### SHIINE Regional Offices

Eastern: 1.800.536.8197

Central: 1.877.331.4834

Western: 1.877.286.9072

The Department of Human Services does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, activities, or services. For more information about this policy or to file a Discrimination Complaint you may contact: Discrimination Coordinator, Director of DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governor's Drive, Pierre, SD 57501, 605.773.3305.

Español (Spanish) - ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1.800.305.9673 (TTY: 711).  
Deutsch (German) - ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1.800.305.9673 (TTY: 711).

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