

# 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 issuer.
- Find out what Medicare covers and the different options for coverage.**
  - Contact the South Dakota SHIINE program.

## 3 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR MONTH OF ELIGIBILITY:

*The following steps MAY not be necessary for everyone.*

- Decide which Medicare option is best for you.**
  - Contact the South Dakota SHIINE program.
- Check with your doctor(s) to see if they accept the different types of Medicare coverage.**
  - Contact your providers and local hospitals.

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

*The following steps MAY not be necessary for everyone.*

- Enroll in Medicare Part A & B.**
  - Contact your local Social Security office.
  - If you are continuing work, enrolling in Part B may not be your best option.
- 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 a Supplement and a MA plan.
  - Contact an insurance agent to enroll in a Supplement or MA plan.
- Enroll in a Part D Prescription Drug Plan.**
  - Contact the South Dakota SHIINE program.
  - If you are enrolled in a MA plan that includes prescription drug coverage, do NOT enroll in a Part D Plan.

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

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

### Contact Information

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

## CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS)

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

### Contact Information

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

## SOUTH DAKOTA SHIINE

The Senior Health Information and Insurance Education (SHIINE) program offers free, unbiased Medicare counseling and education related to all parts of Medicare. Contact SHIINE for questions about Medicare options, claims, and other senior health insurance issues.

### Contact Information

- [www.SHIINE.net](http://www.SHIINE.net)
- Eastern South Dakota: 1-800-536-8197
- Central South Dakota: 1-877-331-4834
- Western South Dakota: 1-877-286-9072



*This publication has been created or produced by the South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Adult Services and Aging's SHIINE program with financial assistance through a grant from the Administration for Community Living. This brochure is for informational purposes only and is available to the public.*