



Executive Office of Elder Affairs
RESPECT INDEPENDENCE INCLUSION



Changes in the Medicare World in 2023



4/18/2023
4/27/2023

SHINE Overview

- **SHINE**= **S**erving the **H**ealth **I**nsurance **N**eeds of **E**veryone...*on Medicare*
- Mission: To provide no cost and unbiased health insurance Information, counseling and assistance to Massachusetts residents with Medicare and their caregivers
- 13 Regional Offices cover entire state and Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center
 - 700+ SHINE counselors (60% volunteers) available in most communities

1-800-243-4636

SHINE@mass.gov

What SHINE Does

- Assist Medicare beneficiaries to understand their Medicare and MassHealth rights and benefits
- Educate people about all of their health insurance options
- Educate consumers with limited resources on how to pay for health care costs. For example: Low Income Subsidy & Medicare Savings (Buy-In) Programs
- Screen for public benefits (State and Federal)

Medicare 101

- Federal health insurance program for:
 - Individuals age 65 and over who are U.S. Citizens or legal permanent residents for a length of time
 - If 40 work credits through payroll tax, entitled to premium-free part A (may qualify through spouse or ex-spouse)
 - Individuals under age 65 who have received 24 months of Social Security Disability (SSDI) payments
- NOT a comprehensive health insurance program
 - Gaps in Medicare coverage mean beneficiary must pay a portion of medical expenses

Medicare Eligibility and Enrollment

- Individuals aged 65 years or older who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents for at least 5 continuous years
 - If 40 work credits through payroll tax, entitled to premium-free Part A (may qualify through spouse or ex-spouse)
 - Under 65 who has received 24 months of Social Security Disability (SSDI) payments
 - Enrollments and eligibility determinations:
 - **Social Security Administration**
1-800-772-1213; www.ssa.gov
- Create a My Social Security Account

The Three Parts of Medicare



**Part A
Hospital
Insurance**



**Part B
Medical
Insurance**

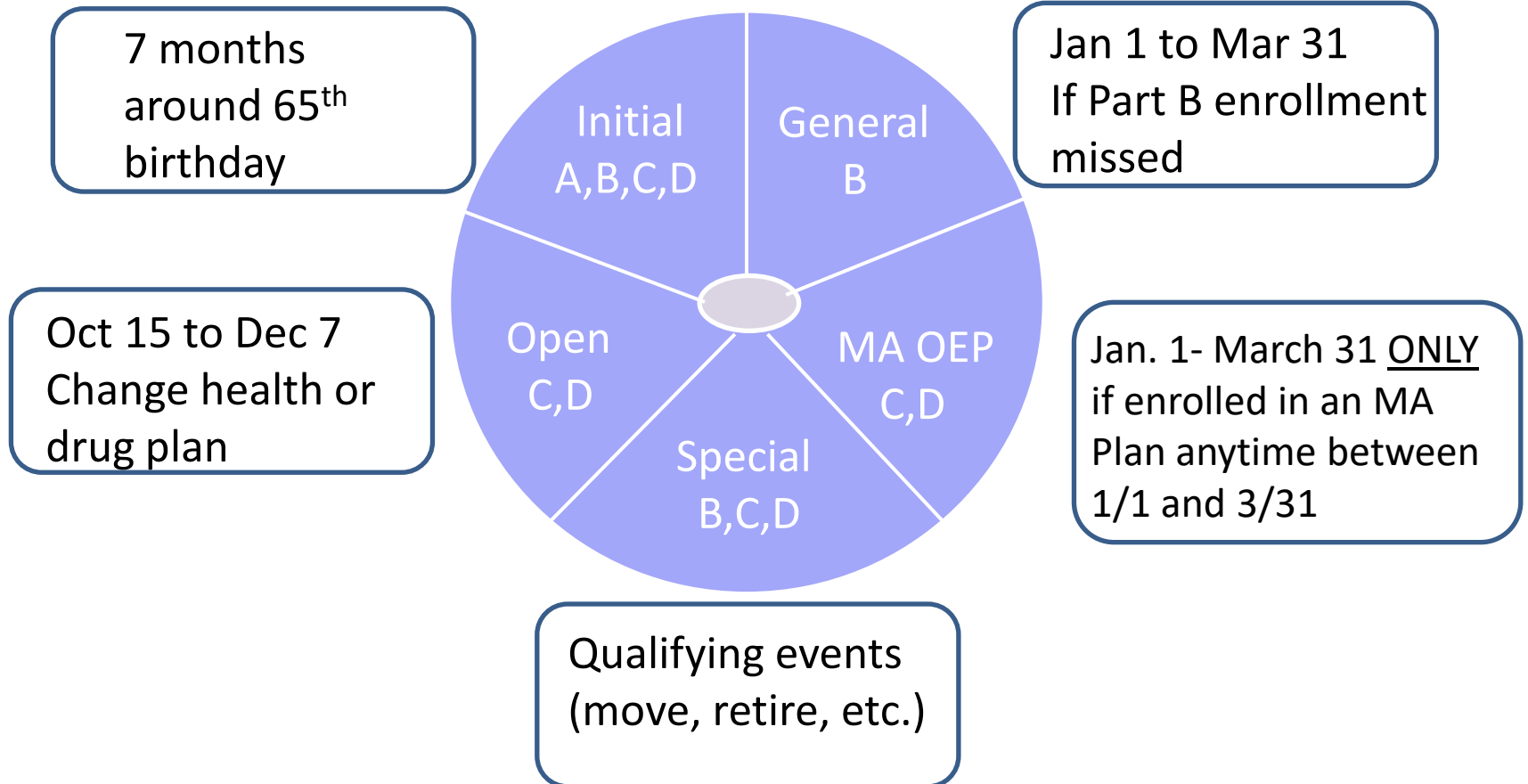


**Part D
Medicare
Prescription
Drug
Coverage**

Part A & Part B is called “Original Medicare”

Medicare Advantage plans combine Parts A, B, and D- also known as Part C

Enrollment Periods



Important Changes to Medicare Enrollment Periods and Coverage Effective Dates

- Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)- 7 months around 65th birthday
 - **No longer a delay in Medicare effective date** when enrolling in last 3 months of IEP. Coverage begins 1st of month after

3 months before the month you turn 65	2 months before the month you turn 65	1 month before the month you turn 65	The month you turn 65*	1 month after the month you turn 65	2 months after the month you turn 65	3 months after the month you turn 65
Enroll early to avoid a delay in coverage. To get Part A and Part B the month you turn 65, you must enroll during the first 3 months before the month you turn 65.			If you wait until the last 4 months of your Initial Enrollment Period to enroll, your Part B coverage will begin the first of the month following the month of enrollment.			

Important Changes to Medicare Enrollment Periods and Coverage Effective Dates (cont.)

- General Enrollment Period- Jan 1st- Mar 31st
 - Effective date no longer delayed to July 1st. Medicare effective date is now 1st of month after enrollment

Date of Enrollment	Coverage Start Date
January 1st- January 31st	February 1st
February 1st- February 28/29th	March 1st
March 1 st - March 31st	April 1st



2023 Medicare Costs

- Part A premium: Free for most Medicare beneficiaries
- Part A hospital deductible: \$1,600 per benefit period (physician services charged to Part B)
- Part A hospital coinsurance: \$0 for days 1–60 (per benefit period)
- Part A SNF coinsurance: \$0 for days 1–20; \$200/day for days 21–100 (per benefit period)
- Part B standard premium*: \$164.90/month – **reduced** from 2022 premium of \$170.10
(higher-income individuals may pay more due to IRMAA- Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount)**
- Part B deductible: \$226 (annual deductible)- **reduced** from 2022 deductible of \$233

Medicare Part B Immunosuppressive Drug Benefit (Part B-ID)



- Introduced for 2023
- Expanded coverage for kidney transplant patients after 36 months can now enroll in Part B-ID for drug coverage if no other health insurance
- Allows for extended coverage only for immunosuppressive drugs
- Premium for Part B-ID will not be subject to late penalties

Part B Special Enrollment Periods



- Health plan or Employer Error (6 months)
- Termination of Medicaid Coverage (6 months)
- Impacted by emergency or disaster (6 months)
- Formerly incarcerated individuals (12 months)
- Other Exceptional Circumstances (as determined by Social Security)

Limited-Time Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for Part D



- This one-time SEP is available to consumers who use insulin and were unaware of the new \$35 monthly cap on copays when selecting a 2023 plan during last fall's OEP
- Consumers who use a covered insulin product can add, drop or change their 2023 Part D coverage
- SEP runs from Dec. 8, 2022, through Dec. 31, 2023

Impact of the Inflation Reduction Act

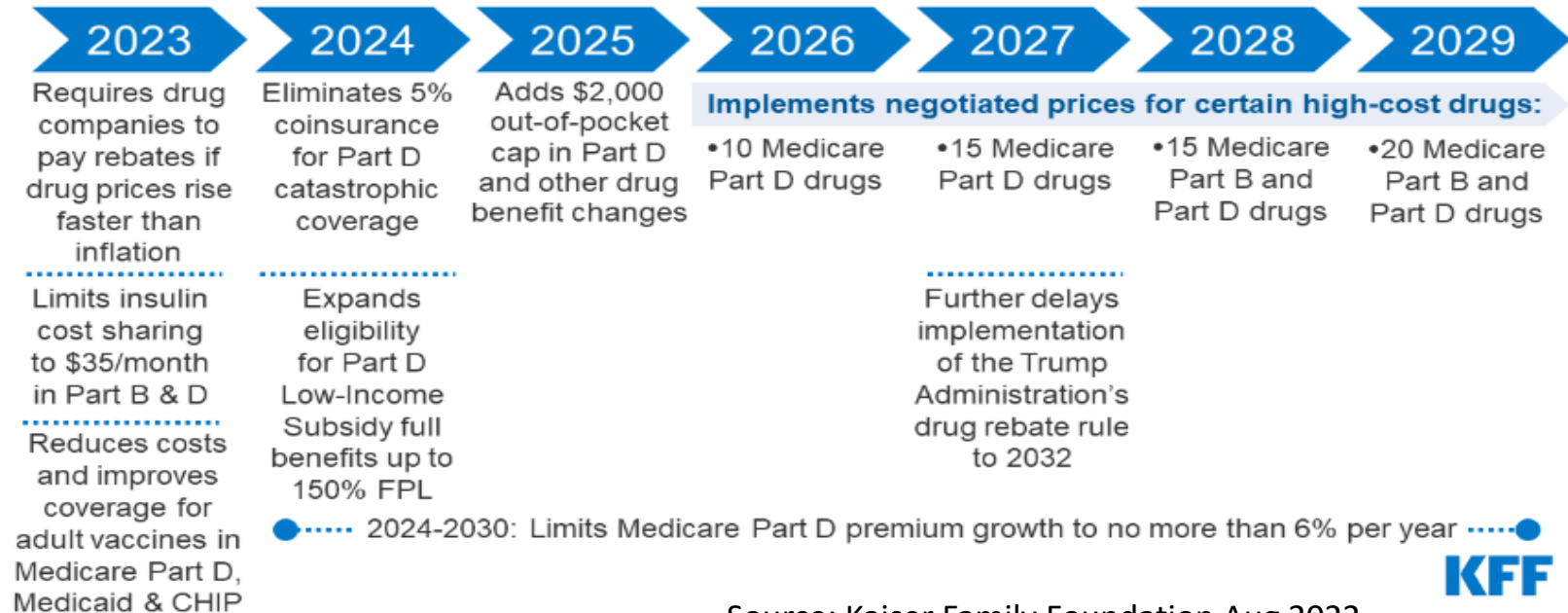
- Changes effective in 2023
 - PDP and MA-PD plans must cap covered insulin at \$35 copay/month effective 1/1/23
 - Insulin covered by Part D is not subject to any deductible
 - For insulin covered by Part B, the cap will take effect on 7/1/23
 - No more cost sharing for Part D covered vaccines (including Shingrix)
 - Drug price increases cannot rise faster than inflation rate

NOTE: Many of the benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act being widely publicized are being implemented gradually over the next several years

Implementation Timeline of the Prescription Drug Provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act

Figure 1

Implementation Timeline of the Prescription Drug Provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Aug 2022

Results to Date in 2023

2023

Requires drug companies to pay rebates if drug prices rise faster than inflation

➤ The **Medicare Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate Program** has resulted in:

- Twenty seven Part B prescription drugs/biologics identified for which beneficiary coinsurances may be lower from April 1- June 30, 2023.
- Medicare beneficiaries who are prescribed one of these medications may save between \$2 and \$390 per average dose, depending on their individual coverage*

➤ According to the Prescription Drug discount website GoodRx:

- The average retail cost for a single dose of the **Shingrix** vaccine is approximately \$213. Since two doses of the vaccine are required, the resulting retail cost would be > \$400**
- The new Medicare Part D copay of \$0 for both doses provides a significant benefit and incentive for consumers to get this vaccination

* Source: CMS Press Release dated 3/15/23

** Source: goodrx.com- "How Much Does a Shingles Vaccine Cost? January 2023

Reduces costs and improves coverage for adult vaccines in Medicare Part D, Medicaid & CHIP

Medicare Savings Program Expansion

Senior Buy-In (QMB) Current Eligibility

- Income up to or equal to 190% FPL
 - \$2,309/month for an individual
 - \$3,123/month for married couples who live together
- Asset/Resource Limits
 - \$18,180 individual
 - \$27,260 married couples who live together

Pays for premiums, deductibles, co-pays, & Extra Help (LIS)

Buy-In (SLMB and QI-1) Current Eligibility

- Income up to or equal to 225% FPL
 - \$2,734/month for an individual
 - \$3,698/month for married couples who live together
- Asset/Resource Limits
 - \$18,180 individual
 - \$27,260 married couples who live together

Pays for premiums & Extra Help (LIS)

***Income Limits as of March 2023**

Prescription Advantage (PA)

- Must be enrolled in a Part D Plan or a Medicare Advantage plan with drug coverage or creditable coverage plan to receive assistance
- Eligibility based on gross annual income only; assets not counted
- Cannot be eligible for MassHealth or Medicare Savings Programs
- PA also offers comprehensive prescription drug coverage for consumers who are not eligible for Medicare
- PA membership also provides a one time Special Enrollment Period each year

Age 65+ Income up to or equal to 500% FPL

- \$3,645/month for an individual
- \$4,930/month for married couples who live together
- Asset/Resource Limits- **None**

Under 65 on Medicare w/ Income up to or equal to

- \$2,284/month for ^{188% FPL}an individual
- \$3,089/month for married couples who live together
- No monthly premium or enrollment fee
- Must meet disability guidelines –documentation required
- Asset/Resource Limits- **None**

Income limits updated as of April 1, 2023

Other Prescription Savings Opportunities

- Consumers may wish to check with one of several available pharmacy discount plans to see if they can save on co-pays:

- GoodRx: www.goodrx.com
- SingleCare: www.singlecare.com
- NeedyMeds: www.needymeds.org



GoodRx

- Accepted at most major pharmacies including CVS, Walgreens, Rite-Aid, and Walmart



- Downloadable apps let you search for best price

- **Some costs for prescriptions may be applied to beneficiary's out-of-pocket totals even if a medication is not purchased using Part D in certain situations. Beneficiaries may be able to submit receipts to their Part D plan and request that payments be applied towards their out-of-pocket costs. Contact Part D plan directly for more information**

SNAP Benefits



Supplemental
Nutrition
Assistance
Program

- Federal SNAP expansion which recently ended, left 640,000 Massachusetts households with an average \$150 less to spend each month
- The Massachusetts State House passed a bill in late March 2023 allotting \$130 million to lessen the impact of that change. The state will provide SNAP recipients with 40% of the previous enhanced federal allotment for a period of three months

Get the Most out of SNAP Benefits

- For households with at least one individual aged 60 or over OR receiving a disability-based benefit, reporting additional expenses may increase SNAP benefits.

What Additional Expenses Qualify?

- Medical expenses (one-time or recurring) over \$35.01 that are not reimbursed/covered by insurance
- Adult and Child Care Costs
- Increases in rent or mortgage payments

What Supporting Documents are Needed?

- For medical expenses, must submit Out of Pocket Medical Expense form No additional documentation needed for expenses totaling between \$35.01 and \$190. For expenses > \$190, must submit copies of receipts or bills
- For Adult and Child Care Costs, can submit provider bill copies or a written note with details
- For increases in rent or mortgage payments, can submit rent receipt, letter from landlord, copy of mortgage bill or bill for condo fees- any document showing what needs to be paid

How to Apply:

- Online: DTACconnect.com or DTA Connect Mobile App
- Mail: DTA Processing Center, P.O. Box 4406, Taunton, MA 02780
- Phone: (877)-382-2363
- Fax: (617) 887-8765



SHINE's Role in Supporting Consumers with MassHealth Redeterminations

- SHINE will continue to screen consumers for all MassHealth programs and will guide consumers on how to apply for each program
- For MassHealth consumers who receive “Blue Envelopes” letters because their eligibility is under review, SHINE Counselors can go over the letter and explain next steps
- SHINE will provide referrals to local CAC and Navigator resources, as well as to the MassHealth online appointment scheduler when assistance with completing an application is needed
- Limited MassHealth application assistance may be available in some SHINE offices

Thank You

The SHINE Program

SHINE@mass.gov

1-800-243-4636

 @Mass_EOEA

To locate a SHINE Counselor in your area, visit

<https://www.mass.gov/health-insurance-counseling> or call

Mass Options at 1-800-243-4636