

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 HR department or current insurer
- ☐ **Find out what Medicare covers and the different options for coverage.**
 - Contact the Nebraska SHIIP

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 Nebraska SHIIP
- ☐ **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 A and 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 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 Supplement
 - Contact the Nebraska SHIIP for a MA plan
- ☐ **Enroll in a Part D Prescription Drug Plan**
 - Contact the Nebraska SHIIP
 - If you are enrolled in a MA plan that includes drug coverage, do NOT enroll in a Part D

Social Security Administration

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

Contact Information:

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 1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227)

Nebraska Department of Insurance

Contact for complaints related to Medicare Supplement Insurance or Insurance Agents.

Contact Information:

www.doi.ne.gov 402-471-2201

Nebraska SHIIP

The Nebraska SHIIP offers free, unbiased Medicare counseling and education related to all parts of Medicare. Contact the Nebraska SHIIP for questions about Medicare options, claims, and other senior health insurance issues.

Contact Information:

www.doi.ne.gov/shiip 1-800-234-7119

NEBRASKA

SHIIP

**SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE
INFORMATION PROGRAM**

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Welcome To Medicare

Medicare Options In Nebraska

New to Medicare Checklist

Guidance on what to do, when to do it, and who to contact.

Medicare Basics

Discusses all parts of Medicare and what each covers.

Medicare Supplement Guide

Lists the companies that sell Medicare Supplements in the state as well as rates.

Medicare Advantage Guide

Lists the Medicare Advantage plans available in the state, as well as basic information on each.

Medicare's Preventive Benefits

Medicare's preventive benefits were improved in 2011. This brochure gives information on the updated benefits.

Savings for People with Medicare

Lower income individuals may qualify for help paying Medicare costs. This flyer gives guidelines for such programs.

Become a SHIIP Volunteer

Volunteers are a vital part of the SHIIP program. View this brochure for more information on joining our program.

The Nebraska SHIIP Program

This brochure gives you information on the Nebraska SHIIP program.

Don't Be a Target of Healthcare Fraud

Medicare fraud and abuse cost taxpayers over \$60 million each year.

As you approach Medicare eligibility, you will soon realize the complexities and confusion that often come with the Medicare program. Medicare is a program that is made up of ever-changing parts, countless dates, and specific rules depending on your situation.

Because of the complexity of the program, many newly-eligible individuals find themselves lost in a Medicare maze. One wrong turn can end up delaying your coverage or even preventing enrollment to certain parts of Medicare.



The Nebraska SHIIP is here to walk you through the process, helping to avoid missteps along the way. Our program has developed a "Welcome to Medicare" packet that will take you through the steps of Medicare. On the left, you will find a link to each brochure we include in our packet. We feel that each publication represents an important portion of Medicare, and together will give you a full picture of the Medicare program.

If you would like to receive a free "Welcome to Medicare" packet, please contact your local Nebraska SHIIP office at 1-800-234-7119.

The Nebraska SHIIP, a division of the Department of Insurance, is here to assist you in understanding and navigating the Medicare maze. We offer free, unbiased counseling and education to older Nebraskans and persons with disabilities regarding Medicare options. We don't sell or promote insurance products or companies. We simply help people understand their options so they can make informed choices.

Local offices are located in the following agencies:

- Aging Office of Western Nebraska – Scottsbluff
- Nebraska Department of Insurance – Lincoln
- Northeast Area Agency on Aging – Norfolk
- South Central Area Agency on Aging – Kearney
- St. Francis Medical Center – Grand Island
- Volunteers Assisting Seniors – Omaha
- West Central Area Agency on Aging – North Platte

