

MEDICARE ENROLLMENT PERIODS

Enrolling in Medicare can be confusing. In 2021, 1.4% of beneficiaries — an estimated 779,400 people — paid a late-enrollment penalty. As a result, their monthly cost was about 27% higher.

It's important to follow Medicare's enrollment periods. Here's what you need to know:



IEP

7 months
3 Months Before
The Month You Turn 65
3 Months After

Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)

You have 7 months to enroll in Medicare for the first time when you turn 65.

SEP

A Qualifying Event

Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

You can change your coverage after a qualifying event.

AEP

Oct 15th - Dec 7th

Annual Enrollment Period (AEP)

Make changes to your medical and prescription drug coverage.

GEP

Jan 1st - March 31st

MA OEP

General Enrollment Period (GEP)

If you didn't sign up for Medicare during your IEP and are ineligible for a special enrollment period, you can sign up during the general enrollment period. Your coverage will begin the next month.

You may face a higher premium for late enrollment in Medicare Part A or Part B.

MA OEP enrollment period (MA OEP)

Individuals who are already in a Medicare Advantage Plan can switch to a different one or return to Original Medicare Plan.

Questions? A licensed, professional agent or broker can help you enroll in coverage that suits your needs and budget.