RetireMed

Medicare Myths

RetireMed advisors correct Medicare Myths all the time. These are some of the most common myths that we hear from our clients.

Myth #1: Medicare is only for retirees.

Retirement isn't a requirement for Medicare. You can continue your career and enjoy the benefits of a Medicare plan once you become eligible at age 65. RetireMed advisors are able to compare your employer coverage to Medicare to recommend the right plan at the right time for you.

Myth #2: Medicare is free.

Most people are entitled to Medicare Part A at no cost, however there is always a monthly premium for Medicare Part B. The amount that you pay for Medicare Part B depends on your income. Parts A and B are required to enroll in a Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan.

Myth #3: Original Medicare is the only coverage I need.

Original Medicare (Part A and Part B) was never intended to cover 100% of your health care costs. For example, it does not include dental, vision, hearing, or prescription coverage. Additionally, there is not an out-of-pocket limit on your medical costs. This is why it is necessary to add a plan to your Original Medicare coverage. While some plans have additional premiums, there are many options with $0 premiums and $0 deductibles available. Co-payment and coinsurance amounts are dependent on the plan you choose.

Myth #4: I can contribute to a Health Savings Account (HSA) while enrolled in Medicare.

Due to IRS rules, once you are enrolled in either Part A or Part B of Medicare, you are unable to contribute to an HSA. This includes voluntary enrollment into Part A or B, as well as automatic enrollment as a result of drawing Social Security financial benefits. However, you can still use your existing HSA funds to cover approved health care costs.

Myth #5: I have to wait until the Annual Enrollment Period to join Medicare.

The Annual Enrollment Period (October 15th – December 7th) occurs each year as an opportunity for those already on Medicare to switch plans. There are several enrollment period options that may be available to you to join Medicare for the first time. This includes the Initial Enrollment Period (IEP) surrounding your 65th birthday, as well as Special Enrollment Periods (SEP), commonly used when leaving coverage through your employer.

Myth #6: I will be penalized if I don't enroll in Medicare at age 65.

While there are situations where you can be penalized for not enrolling in Medicare, there are also circumstances that allow you to defer Medicare without penalty. Even if deferment is an option, it is always a good idea to speak with a trusted advisor to discover what the right course of action is for you.

RetireMed is your no-cost resource for Medicare Guidance.
Contact us to learn more at 866.600.4266 or visit retiremed.com/mb