

Section 2—

Sign Up for Medicare

How do I sign up for Part A & Part B?

Some people get Part A and Part B automatically

If you're already getting benefits from Social Security or the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), you'll automatically get Part A and Part B starting the first day of the month you turn 65. (If your birthday is on the first day of the month, Part A and Part B will start the first day of the prior month.)

If you're under 65 and disabled, you'll automatically get Part A and Part B after you get disability benefits from Social Security for 24 months or certain disability benefits from the RRB for 24 months.

MEDICARE		HEALTH INSURANCE	
1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)			
NAME OF BENEFICIARY JANE DOE			
MEDICARE CLAIM NUMBER 000-00-0000-A	SEX FEMALE		
IS ENTITLED TO		EFFECTIVE DATE	
HOSPITAL	(PART A)	07-01-1986	
MEDICAL	(PART B)	07-01-1986	
SIGN HERE → <i>Jane Doe</i>			

If you're automatically enrolled, you'll get your red, white, and blue Medicare card in the mail 3 months before your 65th birthday or your 25th month of disability benefits. If you don't need Part B, follow the instructions that come with the card, and send the card back. If you keep the card, you keep Part B and will pay Part B [premiums](#). See pages 20–21 for help deciding if you need to sign up for Part B.

If you have ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also called Lou Gehrig's disease), you'll get Part A and Part B automatically the month your disability benefits begin.

How do I sign up for Part A & Part B? (continued)

Some people have to sign up for Part A and/or Part B

If you're close to 65, but not getting Social Security or Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) benefits and you want Part A and Part B, you'll need to sign up. Contact Social Security 3 months before you turn 65. You can also apply for Part A (premium-free) and Part B (for which you pay a monthly [premium](#)) at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement. If you worked for a railroad, contact the RRB.



If you have End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), you'll need to sign up. Visit your local Social Security office, or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to find out when and how to sign up for Part A and Part B. [TTY](#) users should call 1-800-325-0778. For more information, including when your Medicare coverage will end if you're only eligible for Medicare because of permanent kidney failure, visit www.medicare.gov/publications to view the booklet "Medicare Coverage of Kidney Dialysis and Kidney Transplant Services." You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to find out if a copy can be mailed to you. [TTY](#) users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Important!

If you live in Puerto Rico and get benefits from Social Security or the RRB, you'll automatically get Part A the first day of the month you turn 65 or after you get disability benefits for 24 months. **However, if you want Part B, you'll need to sign up for it. If you don't sign up for Part B when you're first eligible, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty.** See page 25. Contact your local Social Security office or RRB for more information.

Where can I get more information?

Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 for more information about your Medicare eligibility, and to sign up for Part A and/or Part B. If you worked for RRB or get RRB benefits, call the RRB at 1-877-772-5772.

Visit www.medicare.gov for general information about enrolling. You can also get personalized health insurance counseling at no cost to you from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). See pages 129–132 for the phone number.

Definitions of [blue](#) words are on pages 133–136.