

Check Your Medicare Part B Options

By Woodrow Wilcox

Medicare Part B covers doctor visits and non-hospital medical treatment. Within six months of the effective date of a person's Medicare Part B enrollment, the senior citizen has an "open enrollment" period for Medicare supplemental insurance coverage application. In applying for Medicare supplemental insurance coverage during the "open enrollment" period, the senior citizen does not have to answer any health questions on the insurance company's application form.

For people who turn 65 but want to continue working and who have health insurance coverage through their employer, this presents a time of decisions. In some cases, it is better for the senior citizen to enroll in Medicare Part A only and wait until retirement to enroll in Medicare Part B. The reason is that delaying the effective date of Medicare Part B can save the senior citizen thousands of dollars.

Each person's situation is different. And the rules regarding the mix of Medicare, private employer insurance, and Medicare supplemental insurance can change. So, when a person is 64 years and 6 months old, getting the help of a knowledgeable insurance agent who regularly deals in Medicare supplemental policies is vital.

If a person enrolls in Medicare Part B, but does not get a Medicare supplemental insurance policy during the "open enrollment" period, then when the person retires, all insurance companies can ask health related questions. So, all insurance companies could refuse to issue a Medicare supplemental insurance policy in those circumstances. It is only during the "open enrollment" period that insurance companies must accept the applicant for coverage.

Making the right decisions in this matter could save a senior citizen thousands of dollars. Making the wrong decisions in this matter could cost a senior citizen thousands of dollars. At age 64 years and 6 months, start checking all the options with the help of an insurance agent who handles Medicare supplemental policies and issues regularly.

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Woodrow Wilcox