



Medicare Part D, Prescription Drugs

The drug coverage piece of Medicare

If you take prescriptions, or might one day, this is for you.

WHAT IT IS

Medicare Part D is prescription drug coverage. It's run by private insurance companies approved by Medicare. You can get Part D either as a standalone drug plan (paired with Original Medicare + Medigap) or built into a Medicare Advantage plan (called **MAPD**, Medicare Advantage with Prescription Drugs).

WHO IT'S FOR

- Anyone on Medicare who takes prescription drugs.
- Anyone on Medicare who **might** take prescriptions in the future (avoid late penalties).
- Anyone with Medigap who wants drug coverage built in, you'll add Part D separately.

HOW IT WORKS

- **2026 standard deductible:** up to \$615 (some plans have \$0 deductible).
- **NEW \$2,100 annual out-of-pocket cap** on prescription drugs (kicks in once you've paid that much).
- Plans use a tiered formulary, preferred generic, generic, preferred brand, non-preferred brand, specialty.
- **IRMAA** applies to Part D for higher-income earners (same way as Part B).

THE 3 THINGS PEOPLE GET WRONG

1 "I don't take meds so I don't need Part D."

If you skip Part D when you're first eligible and add it later, you'll face a permanent late enrollment penalty added to your premium for life.

2 "All Part D plans are the same."

Not even close. Each plan has its own formulary, pharmacy network, and pricing. The plan that's best for your neighbor may be the worst for you, depending on your meds.

3 "The donut hole still exists like it used to."

It doesn't. The coverage gap was restructured under recent reform. With the new **\$2,100 annual out-of-pocket cap**, you won't pay more than that on covered drugs in a year. The mechanics changed, the protections improved.

WHEN TO REVIEW YOUR PART D:

Every fall during AEP (Oct 15, Dec 7). Plans change formularies, pharmacies, and pricing every year.

Need help picking a Part D plan?

Call or text Craig, I'll help find the best plan that fits your medical and financial needs.

Don't go underinsured when you can be Insured AF.

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