



A University of Hawai'i Cooperative Extension Service Project

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# Course Objectives



- Increase your knowledge about financial planning
- Improve your ability to make informed decisions



# Understanding Medicare Enrollment Periods



Presenter

# State of Hawai'i Executive Office on Aging



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## Lesson Objectives



- Understand the basic coverage of Medicare
- Understand the basics of initial and general enrollment periods
- Understand the difference between a Medicare Part C plan and a Medigap Policy

# Medicare Basics



- Part A – Hospital Insurance
- Part B- Supplemental Medical Insurance
- Part C – Medicare Advantage Plans (Managed Care)
- Part D – Prescription Drug Coverage

## Medicare Part A



## Hospital Insurance

- Covers inpatient hospital stays, hospice care, home health coverage and skilled nursing coverage on a limited basis
- Guidelines to the coverage and some restrictions

## Medicare Part B



## Supplemental Medical Insurance

- Covers things used often including physician services, preventive benefits, ambulance services and durable medical equipment
- May also cover home health care and hospice services depending on individual circumstances



## Medicare Part C



## Medicare Advantage Plans

- Sometimes called “managed care”
- Companies contract with Medicare to provide Parts A and Part B
- Can include additional benefits such as prescription drugs and other benefits not covered by Original/Traditional Medicare

## Medicare Part D



## Prescription Drug Coverage

- Began in 2006
- Provided by private companies as just a stand alone drug plan or through a Medicare Part C /Medicare Advantage Plan
- Cost and coverage vary from plan to plan

# Medigap



## Medicare Supplement

- Sold by private insurance companies and work only with Original/Traditional Medicare by covering the “gaps” of copayments
- Plans sold now don’t cover prescription drugs
- Secondary payer to Original/Traditional Medicare

## Why Are Enrollment Periods Important?



- You can have help paying for medical costs when you need it
- You can avoid penalties and surcharges for delays in coverage

## Enrollment Period



## Initial Enrollment Period

- Generally a seven month period:
  - Three months prior to your month of eligibility
  - The month of eligibility, and
  - Three months after

# Medicare General Enrollment Period



- If you missed the initial enrollment period and do not have any qualifying coverage
  - Every year you have the opportunity to enroll from January 1 – March 31<sup>st</sup>
- For each 12 months that you do not have qualifying coverage, you may be faced with a 10% penalty for Medicare Part B

## Medicare Part C & D Enrollment Periods



- Initial enrollment periods are the same 7 month period as Part A and Part B
- You have a seven month window to make a decision on how you want to receive your coverage

## Open Enrollment for C & D



October 15<sup>th</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>

- Plan changes announced
- Can change, add or drop a plan
- Do a “Medicare Check-Up” to make sure that current coverage is best or if new products available
- Changes made will be effective January 1<sup>st</sup> of the new year



# Special Enrollment Periods



## Personal circumstances:

- You (or spouse) “actively” working and covered by that health plan, but it is ending
  - You have 8 months to sign up for Medicare Part B
  - You have 63 DAYS to sign up for a Part C or D plan

## More Special Enrollment



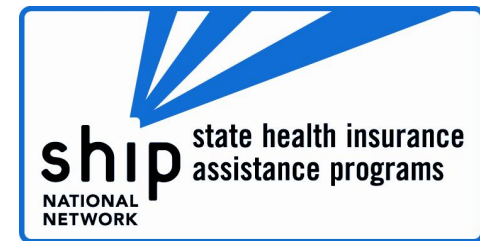
- You recently moved out of your plans coverage area
- Your plan has left the network midyear
- You qualify for health care financial assistance from the Federal or State government (State Medicaid Program or Medicare Extra Help for drug coverage)

Contact for  
More  
Information



## Hawai'i's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

- Hawai'i SHIP Program at:
- 586-7299 or 1-888-875-9229
- <http://www.hawaiihip.org/>



# Medicare Information



- Toll-free: 1-800-633-4227
- TTY: 1-877-486-2048
- Website: [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
- Mailing address:  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid  
Services  
7500 Security Blvd  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

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