



Briefing

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Medicare and Changes in Residence

Moving Within State

- ♥ If you have Original Medicare, **notify the Social Security Administration (SSA)** of your move to update your address.
- ♥ If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan or Part D Prescription Drug Plan, **notify the plan** of your change of address and see if you will still be in your plan's area of coverage.
 - ♥ If not, you will have a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to change plans. You can **call Medicare to use your SEP** and change plans.
 - ♥ You can use Medicare's **Plan Finder tool** to compare plans.
- ♥ If you have a Medigap, call the plan to ask if the cost of your premium will change.

Moving Out of State

- ♥ If you have Original Medicare, **notify SSA** of your move.
- ♥ If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan or Part D Prescription Drug Plan, **notify the plan** of your change of address and see if you will still be in your plan's area of coverage.
 - ♥ If not, you may have a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to change plans. You can **call Medicare to use your SEP** and change plans.
 - ♥ You can use Medicare's **Plan Finder tool** to compare plans.
- ♥ If you have a Medigap, learn about your new state's rules around Medigaps. You can **call your SHIP** to learn about Medigaps in your state in case you want to make changes in the future
 - ♥ You can also call your Medigap plan to see if the cost of your premium will change.
- ♥ If you have a Medicare Savings Program (MSP), learn about the eligibility rules in the state to which you are moving. For assistance with a new MSP application, contact that state's SHIP.

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- ♥ If you were automatically enrolled in Extra Help because of your state's Medicaid or MSP, you may need to actively enroll after your move to another state. You can call SSA to learn about the status of your Extra Help.

Moving abroad

- ♥ If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan or Part D Prescription Drug Plan, **contact your plan to disenroll**, since you will no longer be eligible for these plans while living abroad.
 - ♥ If you move back to the U.S., you will have an SEP to enroll in a Medicare Advantage or Part D Prescription Drug Plan again.
- ♥ If you have premium-free Part A, **you should keep Part A**. If you become eligible for premium-free Part A while abroad, you should enroll. To enroll while abroad, request forms from the U.S. Embassy or Consulate of the country you live in.
- ♥ If you plan to move back to the U.S. or travel back frequently, **you may want to enroll in or keep Part B** to ensure you have medical coverage during your stays, and to avoid potential gaps in coverage or late enrollment penalties. You might consider delaying or dropping Part B if:
 - ♥ You or your spouse work outside the U.S. for a company that provides you with health insurance, or you or your spouse work in a country with a national health system. This will qualify you for a SEP to enroll in Part B without penalty.
 - ♥ You volunteer internationally for at least 12 months for a tax-exempt non-profit organization and have health insurance during that time. You will have an SEP to enroll in Medicare without gaps or penalties.
- ♥ If you plan to move abroad permanently and not visit the U.S., you might consider dropping Part B, but **be aware of the consequences** you could face if you wish to enroll later (gaps in coverage and late enrollment penalties).

Being incarcerated

- ♥ If you are incarcerated, you should **keep or enroll in Parts A and B**. To enroll in Medicare while in prison or jail, send a signed and dated letter to SSA that includes your name, Social Security number, clear statement that you want to enroll, the date the coverage should be effective, and your signature.
- ♥ If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan or Part D Prescription Drug Plan, **contact your plan to disenroll**, since you will no longer be eligible for these plans while incarcerated.
 - ♥ If you are released from incarceration, you will have an SEP to enroll in a Medicare Advantage or Part D Prescription Drug Plan again.
- ♥ If you cannot afford to keep Part B while incarcerated, you should **actively withdraw** from Part B. Then you can apply for a **Medicare Savings Plan (MSP)** the two months before your release (or as soon as you are released in certain states in which you cannot apply while incarcerated).

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Social Security Administration (SSA): 800-772-1213 or www.ssa.gov

Medicare: 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227, TTY 1-877-486-2048)

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP): 877-839-2675 • Visit www.shiptacenter.org to find the number for a specific state.

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