

Caregiver Conversations

Health Insurance Coverage



What type
of health
insurance
coverage
does your
loved one
have?

Understanding the type of health insurance plan a loved one has is a critical component in the caregiving process. Health insurance coverage, or lack thereof, directly impacts access to care and treatment.

Ask your loved one if they have insurance, what type of insurance plan(s) they have and how they obtained the insurance.

If they don't currently have health insurance, you can research options to help them obtain coverage.



Types of Insurance

- Medicare
 - Original Medicare
 - Medicare Advantage
- Medicaid
- Commercial
- Military



Medicare

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for:

- People who are 65 or older
- Certain younger people with disabilities
- People with end stage renal disease

What are the parts of Medicare?

- Part A- Hospital Insurance
- Part B-Medical Insurance
- Part D-Prescription Drug Coverage



Original Medicare

- Social Security enrolls you in Original Medicare
- Original Medicare includes Parts A& B
- Original Medicare beneficiaries often purchase a Medicare Supplement policy (also known as Medigap) to cover remaining out of pocket costs like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles
- If a beneficiary chooses not to enroll in Part B during their initial enrollment period, and then decides to enroll later, coverage could be delayed, and a monthly premium may be charged for as long as they have Part B



Medicare Supplement

- Sold by private insurance companies
- Fills the “gaps” in original Medicare coverage
- Covers remaining health care costs, like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles



Medicare Advantage

- Medicare approved plans from private insurance companies that offer an alternative to Original Medicare
- These plans include Parts A, B and D
- May also offer extra benefits that Original Medicare doesn't cover: vision, hearing and dental services



Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program funded jointly by states and the federal government to provide health coverage for:

- Low-income adults
- Children
- Pregnant Women
- Elderly adults
- People with disabilities



Commercial Insurance

Commercial insurance plans are offered by private insurance companies. These plans are generally purchased through an employer, state insurance exchanges or an independent insurance agent or broker.



Military Insurance

Active and Retired members of the armed forces and their spouses may have coverage under one of these military programs:

- VA Health Care Program
- CHAMP VA
- TRICARE

