



Fee-Only Financial and Investment Planning
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On Course

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Welcome! As so many baby boomers are turning 65, this month we're talking about enrolling in Medicare.

If you would like help understanding your Medicare options, remember we're here to help you stay *On Course*!

-Jennifer Lane, CFP

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Enrolling in Medicare

When you first start researching Medicare, it may seem overwhelming. The good news is that [Medicare.gov](#), is updated and user friendly. While we can't cover everything, below is a primer on Medicare enrollment with links to more detailed info from Medicare.gov.

Medicare coverage

- Most people know about Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance), which Medicare provides.
- Medicare Part C is the new Medicare Advantage Program, which a third party provides.
- Medicare Part D is the prescription drug option.
- Click [here](#) to read in detail about all the above plans.

When to enroll

- You have 7 months to enroll. The 3 months prior to turning 65, the month you turn 65, and the 3 months after you turn 65.
- At Medicare.gov, you can find out if you're eligible, learn about the plans, take an Initial Enrollment Questionnaire, and learn about how Medicare works with other plans.
- Click [here](#) to read about enrollment in detail.

How to get help

- You have access to face-to-face help!
- The [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#) (SHIP) provides advisors to help you sort through what you need and what are the best



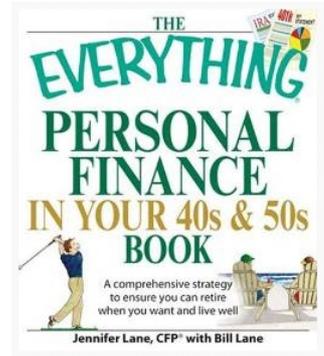
Jennifer's Hint

Long-term care insurance - often called nursing home insurance - is meant to cover the cost of care Medicare does not cover. Long-term care insurance is not cheap so be sure you can afford the premiums and any increases for the rest of your life. Keeping a policy for only a few years could be a waste of money.

**Get more tips in
Jennifer's book**

plan options.

- Call your town's elder services department to set up an appointment with an advisor.
- Also, check out Medicare's help page for SHIP info and other organizations that can help. Click [here](#) to access that page.



([click here for link](#))

Q&A

Q: I'm turning 65 soon but will continue to work. Do I have to use Medicare for my health insurance?

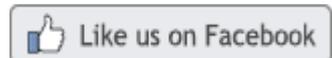
-- Connie, Boston

A: Good question, Connie. You should definitely sign up for Medicare Part A, which is free. Part A covers hospital care, skilled nursing facilities, some nursing home care, hospice, and home health services. Whether or not you need to sign up for other parts of Medicare and additional coverages depends on your employer. In general, employers with under 20 employees will want you to use Medicare as their programs are not as comprehensive. Employers with over 20 employees will generally let you continue your coverage. Speak with your human resources department to find out your options. Good luck!

Helpful Websites

[Medicare.gov](#)

[State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#)



What's New

- The CFP Experts' Corner just featured Jennifer's new article, *Keeping your Data Safe Online*. Click [here](#) to read the full article.
- Jennifer recently answered NECN viewer questions about maximizing retirement income. Click [here](#) to watch the segment on her blog.
- Follow us on Facebook! Visit www.facebook.com/AskJennifer and like us!
- Jennifer appears on NECN every other Monday morning at 9:30 am in addition to her Tuesday 6:30 pm appearance.

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