



Fee-Only Financial And Investment Planning

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Welcome. We at Compass Planning continue to appreciate your support. Thank you.

You can make informed decisions that best suit your healthcare needs by understanding your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) and Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) as well as Medicare Part C, Medigap, and Part D options. Remember to review your options annually to ensure your plan continues to meet your requirements. Your Medicare plan sends out EOC and ANOC information in September. Read below for tips on how best to understand your coverage

If you missed our series on retirement, you can still access the issues. For Retirement, Part 1 - Retirement Savings, click [here](#). For Retirement, Part 2 - Social



When preparing for retirement, take into account the unknown cost of healthcare, e.g., you will be responsible for

Security, click [here](#). For Retirement, Part 3 - The Retirement Paycheck, click [here](#).

If you would like assistance with your Medicare planning, we are here to help you stay *On Course!*



Jennifer Lane, CFP

Medicare Coverage, Benefits, and Plan Choices

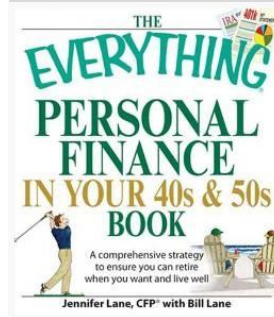
YOUR MEDICARE COVERAGE DOCUMENTS

Evidence of Coverage (EOC)

- Your comprehensive guide to what your Medicare plan covers, detailing the costs, coverage, and rules of your plan for the upcoming year. Think of it as your roadmap to understanding your healthcare benefits.
- Review carefully as the EOC affects exactly what your coverage is and how it works.
- The Medicare Annual Enrollment period is between October 15 and December 7. You can make changes that will take effect the following year.

paying insurance premiums in retirement.

Get more tips in Jennifer's book



[Buy Now](#)

Helpful Websites

[Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#)

[Medicare.gov](#)

[Medicare Plan Finder](#)

Annual Notice of Change (ANOC)

- A user-friendly snapshot of your plan's key benefits and costs, including any changes in coverage, costs, and more that will be effective in January.
- Review the documents
- Check for coverage changes by looking for any updates in services or medications covered to avoid unexpected costs.
- Review cost adjustments by identifying changes in premiums, copayments, or out-of-pocket limits.
- Verify network providers by confirming your preferred healthcare providers and pharmacies are still in-network.

ORIGINAL MEDICARE VS MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Original Medicare

- **Part A** (Hospital Insurance) covers inpatient hospital stays, skilled nursing facility care, hospice, and some home health care. Usually, there's no premium for Part A if you've paid Medicare taxes while working.
- **Part B** (Medical Insurance) covers doctor visits, outpatient care, medical supplies, and preventive services. Part B requires a monthly premium.
- You can visit any doctor or hospital in the U.S. that accepts Medicare, offering broad access to healthcare services. However, Original Medicare doesn't cover prescription drugs (Part D needed) or routine dental, vision, and hearing care.

[State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#)

[USA.gov/medicare](https://www.usa.gov/medicare)

- **Supplemental Coverage**
- Many opt for Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) to help cover additional costs like deductibles and coinsurance.
- Private companies sell Medigap policies and provide financial protection by filling gaps in coverage.

Medicare Advantage

- Medicare Advantage (Part C) is an alternative to Original Medicare.
- Private insurance companies approved by Medicare offer Medicare Advantage plans.
- Plans usually include combined coverage, including Part A, Part B, and, often, Part D (prescriptions drugs).
- Extra benefits may include dental, vision, hearing, and wellness programs.
- Network and Flexibility
- Medicare Advantage plans usually operate within a network of doctors and hospitals. You may need to use network providers for the best coverage. Plan types include Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) and Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs).
- Cost Structure
- These plans often have low or \$0 premiums but include the Part B premium. They feature an annual out-of-pocket maximum, which limits your total healthcare costs for the year.

MEDICARE PART D INFO

Medicare Part D

- Helps cover prescription drug costs.
- Private insurance companies offer plans and vary in cost and coverage. Cost is in addition to Part B premiums.
- Plans designed for different healthcare needs and budgets, ensuring beneficiaries can minimize out-of-pocket expenses and access comprehensive medical care.
- The Formulary lists what the plan covers and categorizes drugs into cost-sharing tiers.
- If you have high drug costs you may experience a gap in coverage at a certain dollar limit. This gap is referred to as the "donut hole" because coverage resumes once your costs increase enough to reach a still higher limit.

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE (MEDIGAP)

Medicare Supplement Insurance

- Supplements Medicare by covering costs like copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles.
- Private companies offer plans that vary in cost and coverage.

SWITCHING BETWEEN ORIGINAL MEDICARE AND MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Reasons you may want to switch

- As your healthcare needs evolve, you may find that a different plan better suits your situation. Medicare Advantage plans often offer additional benefits like dental, vision, and hearing coverage.
- If you need to make financial adjustments, Medicare Advantage can have lower premiums but potentially higher out-of-pocket costs. Conversely, pairing Original Medicare with a Medigap plan might offer more predictable expenses, though at a higher premium.
- If your doctors are not in your Medicare Advantage network or if you prefer having access to any provider who accepts Medicare, switching to Original Medicare might be beneficial.

How to switch plans

- The Medicare Open Enrollment Period runs from October 15 to December 7. If you're on a Medicare Advantage plan, you can also switch between January 1 and March 31 during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period.
- Under certain conditions, such as moving out of your plan's service area, you may qualify for a Special Enrollment Period to change plans outside the usual windows.

Financial considerations

- If you're considering switching from Original Medicare with Medigap to Medicare Advantage, be aware that re-enrolling in Medigap later might be difficult or costly.
- Review all potential costs before making a switch, including premiums, deductibles, and out-of-pocket maximums.



Jennifer In The Media



Below are links to Jennifer's frequent contributions to financial planning articles.

- **NBC10 Boston** interviewed Jennifer to learn about college financial aid and the new FAFSA form. Click [here](#) to watch.
- **USA Today** turned to Jennifer for her advice on managing credit card debt. Click [here](#) to read ***Debt snowball vs. debt avalanche: The best way to pay off credit card debt.***
- Jennifer contributed to a WBUR Radio Boston segment, ***How to Look Before Your Leap into the "Great Resignation."*** Click [here](#) to listen.
- NBC10 consumer investigative reporter Leslie Gaydos interviewed Jennifer for savings tips. For a great video, ***How to Save \$1,000 in 5 Months***, click [here](#).
- Jennifer contributed to a timely article, ***How to seek forbearance on your mortgage***, for **The Boston Globe**. [Read article.](#)
- If you're interested in dividend funds, Jennifer contributed to **The New York Times** article, ***Dividend Funds Can Add Income, and Risk, to Your Portfolio.*** [Read article.](#)
- Jennifer contributed to a **BankRate** article, ***Should I combine my mortgage and student loans?*** [Read article.](#)
- Need help with your 401(k) during the pandemic? Jennifer contributed to a **Boston Globe** article, ***Five tips for managing a 401(k) during the pandemic's turbulence.*** [Read article.](#)
- Jennifer contributed to the **Bottom Line Inc** article ***Prepare your Finances for a Possible Recession.*** [Read article.](#)
- Jennifer contributed to **The Wall Street Journal** article ***If Saving During a Pandemic Is Hard, Here's How to Stay Motivated.*** [Read article.](#)

- The **New York Times** featured Jennifer in an article titled, ***Balanced Funds Don't Inspire Fear or Greed. That's Why They Are So Useful.*** [Read article.](#)
- With a contrarian view, Jennifer contributed to an article, ***People are enraged by the idea that you should have twice your salary saved by the time you're 35!*** published recently by **Business Insider.** [Read article.](#)
- Moving in together? Check this article from **Business Insider**, ***Five questions you and your partner should answer before taking the biggest step in your relationship.*** [Read article.](#)
- Insider asked Jennifer to contribute to an article on old fashioned ways to manage your money, ***Six money-saving tips your grandma used that are way more effective than any budgeting app.*** [Read article.](#)
- Jennifer contributed to an article on **Business Insider**, ***This is the best way to do your taxes online - according to experts.*** [Read article.](#)
- **CNN Money's Money Moves** featured Jennifer in an article on how to strike the right balance between retiring early and saving enough. [Read article.](#)
- Jennifer contributed to a **CNN Money** article ***When is the Right Time to See a Financial Advisor?*** [Read article.](#)

Compass Planning News

- Compass Planning continues to meet with clients as well as those interested in learning more about the firm via phone and web-based video conferencing. Email info@compassplanning.com to learn more.
- Compass Planning has become a supporter of [The Center for Financial Planning](#) at the sustainer level. The CFP Board created the center to achieve a more diverse and sustainable financial planning profession so that every American has access to competent and ethical financial planning advice.

Compass Planning Associates helps families, individuals, and small-business clients achieve financial security, knowledge, and control over their money. Our fee-only,

client-centered approach provides education and guidance for achieving financial goals and dreams.

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