

# Medicare's four parts

Four letters. Different jobs. Here is how they fit.



## Hospital

Inpatient hospital care



## Medical

Doctors & outpatient care

**A + B = Original Medicare**



## Medicare Advantage

A private plan for A + B



## Prescriptions

Drug coverage

**Part C usually includes Part D.**

## And Medigap?

Extra insurance for some Original Medicare costs. It does not supplement Medicare Advantage.

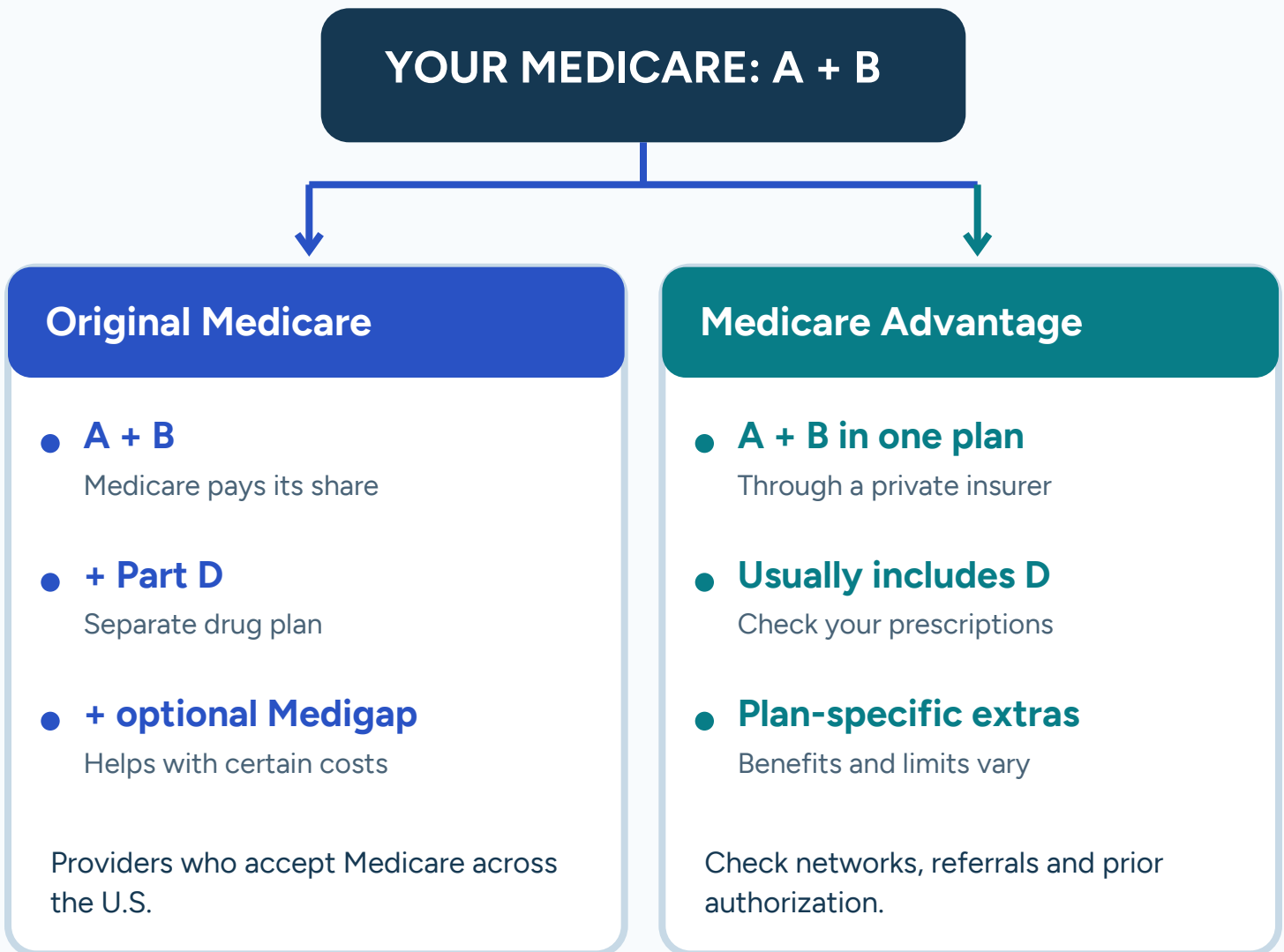
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Sources: Medicare.gov / Parts of Medicare | Checked September 11, 2026

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# Two paths. Your priorities.

Start with Parts A + B. Compare how you receive your benefits.



## Compare more than the premium.

You generally keep paying Part B on either path. Check your Medigap purchase rights before switching.

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Sources: Medicare.gov / Coverage options & Medigap | Checked September 11, 2026

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# Find your enrollment window

First enrollment and plan changes follow different clocks.

## TURNING 65? YOUR USUAL INITIAL WINDOW:



A birthday on the 1st changes timing. Confirm your exact dates.

**OCT 15–DEC 7**

### Fall plan changes

Join, switch or drop Advantage or drug coverage.

**JAN 1–MAR 31**

### Already in Medicare Advantage?

One change to another Advantage plan, or Original Medicare + a drug plan.

**LIFE CHANGE**

### Special enrollment

A qualifying event may open a window. Rules and deadlines vary.

## Medigap has its own enrollment protections.

Fall enrollment does not guarantee you can buy any Medigap policy. Ask before you change coverage.

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Sources: Medicare.gov / Sign-up, joining plans & Medigap | Checked September 11, 2026

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# 2026 Medicare costs

The number matters. So does the time period next to it.

## PART B PREMIUM

**\$202.90**

**per month**

Standard amount; some people pay more.

## PART B DEDUCTIBLE

**\$283**

**per year**

Original Medicare

## PART A DEDUCTIBLE

**\$1,736**

**per benefit period**

Can apply more than once a year.

## PART D OUT-OF-POCKET

**\$2,100**

**per year**

Threshold for covered Part D drugs.

**These figures do not represent your total annual spending.**

## The old Part D “donut hole” is gone.

Premiums and drugs outside Part D coverage do not count toward its \$2,100 limit. Plan costs vary.

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Sources: CMS & Medicare.gov / 2026 costs, Part D | Checked September 11, 2026

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