



# Countdown to Medicare

See the simple checklist inside to help you prepare for Medicare.



# Are you ready for Medicare?

This simple checklist will help you to prepare for Medicare.

## Your 64th Birthday

- Check to see how your current health coverage may be affected by your Medicare eligibility.
- Learn of any programs that will help you pay for Medicare Parts A and B costs.
- Familiarize yourself with Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage. It's easy to go online and do your research. Medicare.gov is a good resource. So is our site at **medicare.virginiapremier.com**.

## 6 months before you turn 65

- Meet with your HR department to ask about retiree benefits. If you're not retiring at 65, you may be able to keep your employer plan.
- If you are not already receiving Social Security benefits, contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778), 7 am to 7 pm, Monday - Friday to confirm if you are eligible for Medicare.
- Review your medical history and create a profile of your expected annual health care and prescription drug needs.
- Make a budget worksheet to compare your options.
- Check out different plans' prescription drug coverage.
- If you plan to keep your current doctor, check to see if they accept Medicare or the Medicare Advantage plan you are considering.



## 3 months before you turn 65

- Enroll in Medicare Parts A and B by contacting the Social Security Administration at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778).
- Enroll in a Medicare Advantage Plan.
- Make sure you receive your Medicare card. If you have enrolled in a plan, make sure you receive your health care and/or prescription drug card.

## At 65

- Your Medicare or Medicare Advantage coverage begins.  
**Congratulations!**

For additional information about Medicare or Part D Prescription Drug benefits, you can call Medicare at 1-800-633-4227, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Want to find out more? Call one of our Medicare Benefit Advisors at **1-833-280-1194 (TTY:711)**.



# There's a 7-month period for signing up!



3 months before — **65th Birthday** — 3 months after

If you are turning 65, you can sign up for Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan in the 3 months before your birthday month, during your birthday month, or the 3 months after your birthday month. This is referred to as the **Initial Enrollment Period**.

There are also **Special Election Periods** should you decide to keep working past 65. If you delay your retirement and keep your employer plan coverage, you can then qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.

**Who is Virginia Premier?** We are a local university-based non-profit Managed Care Organization in the state of Virginia. You're local, and so are we. We've been caring for Virginians for over 20 years.

Virginia Premier understands your health care needs. Medicare Advantage plans created by Virginians, for Virginians.



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Want to find out more? Contact one of our Medicare Benefit Advisors at 1-833-280-1194 (TTY:711). We are here to help you. From October 1 through March 31, we are open daily from 8 am to 8 pm, 7 days a week.

From April 1 through September 30, we are open Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. On certain holidays and weekends from April 1 through September 30, your call will be handled by our automated phone system. Virginia Premier Health Plan, Inc. is a fully-owned subsidiary of VCU Health. Other physicians and providers are available in our network.