

2026 Medicare Prescription Payment Plan

The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan enables patients to:

- Pay out-of-pocket costs* in monthly payments
- Owe \$0 at the pharmacy

*Out-of-pocket costs include the patient's deductible and any co-pay or co-insurance required for their prescription medications. Monthly insurance premiums do not count towards out-of-pocket costs.

What is the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is a federal government program that may help Medicare patients manage prescription medication costs by spreading them across monthly bills over the calendar year. If enrolled, patients are sent a monthly bill for their share of prescription medication costs by their plan, and they pay \$0 at the pharmacy. Patients can enroll at any time during the year, but prescription cost for the current year will be spread out only for the remainder of the year in which they enroll.

Can anyone opt in to the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

Anyone with a Medicare prescription drug plan or Medicare health plan with medication coverage is able to enroll and use this payment option for prescription medications. **All plans offer this payment option, and participation is voluntary.**

How can patients decide if enrolling in the payment plan may be right for them?

Some patients may be more likely to benefit from the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan than others:

- Patients taking high-cost medications earlier in the plan year
- Patients whose plans use co-insurance, as they are more likely to reach the \$2100 spending cap earlier in the year

Patients who are eligible for the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) may benefit more from enrolling in LIS than participating in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. **LIS can reduce or eliminate premiums, deductibles, and co-payments for eligible patients.**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has a tool that can help patients decide if the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is right for them:

www.medicare.gov/prescription-payment-plan/will-this-help-me



\$2100
Out-of-Pocket
Maximum

In 2026, patient out-of-pocket cost for prescription medications is capped at \$2100. Once this amount is reached, patients will pay \$0 for the rest of the year. This applies to all patients with Medicare drug coverage, even if they are not enrolled in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan.



Patients can enroll through their Medicare plan



Online,
through the
plan provider's
website

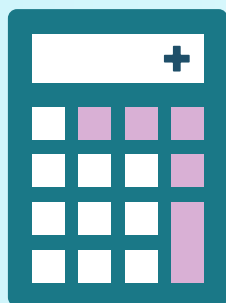


By phone, by calling
the number on the
back of the patient's
insurance card



By mail,
with a paper
election form
sent by the plan

Patients can also enroll during open enrollment for the following year by filling out an election request form.



How does payment work with the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

Instead of paying for prescription medications at the pharmacy, patients enrolled in the plan will receive a monthly bill from their plan. Each month, the bill is calculated by adding the cost of new prescriptions to any unpaid balance from earlier months. Then, the total is divided by the number of months left in the year. If a patient stops taking a medication, they will still need to make monthly payments until the remaining balance is fully paid.

There are no fees or interest associated with the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan.

Do payments change if the patient receives additional prescriptions?

In some cases, future payments may increase when patients get a new prescription or refill, as the cost of the medication is added and there are fewer months left in the year to spread out those costs.

What happens if patients don't pay their bill?

If bills are not paid on time, patients may be removed from the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan and go back to paying their share of medication costs at the pharmacy.

What if patients have questions about what their medications cost?

Patients who have questions about prescription medication costs can call their Medicare prescription drug plan or ask their pharmacist for more information.

To learn more about the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan and if it might be a good fit, patients should contact their Medicare plan provider by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or visit [Medicare.gov/prescription-payment-plan](https://www.Medicare.gov/prescription-payment-plan).



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