

The Caregiver Toolbox

Planning Ahead—Financial Realities Of Paying for Care with Medicare & Medicaid

Medicare

- Federal health insurance program
- Eligibility:
 - People age 65 and older
 - People with End Stage Renal Disease or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
 - People who have been receiving Social Security Disability payments for 24 months
 - Everyone who pays into Social Security System earns coverage (FICA taxes)



Medicare Part A

- Also called hospital insurance
- Automatic and free for those paying into at least 10 years of Social Security
- Coverage for: Hospital care, post-hospital skilled rehabilitative care, and hospice care.



Medicare Part B

- Also called Medical Insurance
- Coverage is voluntary
- Current premium for most people ranges from \$148.50 to \$207.90
- Coverage for: Doctors, Lab/Diagnostic Services, Therapies, some Durable Medical Equipment, Limited Ambulance and Home Health Care.
- Pays 80% after a yearly deductible of \$203.00
- Ohio has a “Balance Billing Ban”, providers cannot bill Medicare recipients more than the 20% Medicare requires.

Medicare Part C – Medicare Advantage Plans

- Medicare recipients can choose a Medicare Advantage Plan as their Medicare coverage
- These operate like HMOs or PPOs
- Advantage Plan members agree to go to providers who are in the plan’s network.
- Plans typically offer prescription drug coverage
- Plan service areas are typically limited to a city or county
- Plans may charge an additional monthly premium in addition to the Part B premium – the premium varies by plan

Medicare Part D – Prescription Drug Coverage

- Available to all Medicare Beneficiaries if they do not have coverage that is at least as comprehensive from another source.
- Part D premiums vary by plan
- Limited Income Subsidy (LIS) provides financial help with purchasing a plan for people who meet financial eligibility. Also called “Extra Help”
- www.medicare.gov provides cost comparisons on plans or, Contact COAAA 800-589-7277 to speak to a Medicare Specialist

Medicare Skilled Home Health Care Benefit

- Does not pay for non-medical services or private-duty nursing
- Requires a doctor’s order for all covered services
- Requires the individual to be homebound
- Pays for home care typically on a very time-limited basis

Medicare Skilled Home Health Care Services

- Skilled nursing service or therapy (physical/occupational/speech)
- A home health aide and/or medical monitoring
- Some medical equipment like hospital beds or wheelchairs
- Patient/Caregiver teaching to use medical equipment, perform dressing changes, maintain functioning, manage medications.

Medicare Skilled Nursing Facility – Rehabilitative Services Benefit

- Requires 3 consecutive midnights ADMITTED for hospital care prior to nursing facility admission.
- Verify with hospital staff what the person’s status is in the hospital.
- If the person’s status in the hospital is “OBSERVATION” Medicare does not cover a rehabilitation stay in a nursing facility.
- Medicare only pays for nursing facility care as long as the person needs skilled nursing care or therapy, AND makes progress toward recovery as a result.

Medicare Hospice Benefit

- Requires a terminal diagnosis of 6 months or less (the benefit can be renewed if death does not occur in 6 months).
- Covers all care related to the terminal diagnosis.
- Focus is on pain and symptom management “comfort care”
- Does not cover curative treatment of diseases and conditions
- Hospice care can be provided in the home, or in a care facility.

Medicare Supplemental Insurance

- Regulated and standardized in Ohio
- 7 different policy types—all fill in the gaps for Medicare ie. co-pays, deductibles
- Cannot drop you or raise your premium because you are sick but the monthly premiums do go up as you get older

Long Term Care Insurance

- Not regulated or standardized in Ohio
- Buyer beware! Good and bad policies out there...be careful not to be pressured into buying
- Can cover care in both nursing facilities and at home
- Tend to be much more expensive as a person gets old or develops illnesses.

Ohio Dept. of Insurance(OSHIIP program) has booklets and programs that teach about these policies www.insurance.ohio.gov

Medicare Savings Programs

Programs that assist with Medicare out-of-pocket expenses – income/asset eligibility criteria apply.

- Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB):
Pays Medicare Pt. B premiums, deductibles, and copayments
- Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary
Pays Pt. B premiums
- Qualified Individual (QI)
Pays Medicare Pt. B premiums

QMB/ SLMB/QI - ALL qualify the person for “Extra Help” with Medicare Pt. D Prescription Drug Coverage

- Apply at the County Department of Job & Family Services
- For more information go to: www.insurance.ohio.gov for the flyer “Ohio Medicare Savings Programs”



Medicaid in Ohio

- Medicaid is a joint State/Federal assistance program for people who cannot afford healthcare.
- There are limits on the amount of income & assets a person can have to be eligible for Medicaid
- Medicaid ALSO pays for long-term care in the home, assisted living, or a nursing home when a person’s resources are depleted
- In Ohio, application for Medicaid is through the County Department of Job & Family Services in the county where the person resides.

Community Medicaid

- Also Known as “Basic Medicaid”
- Available to individuals living in the community who are aged, blind, or disabled and have limited income and assets.
- Children, Pregnant Women, & Families in Ohio with limited incomes may also qualify for Community Medicaid.
- Ohio participates in the Medicaid Expansion Project which provides Medicaid Health Coverage to adults age 18-64 who are at or below 138% Federal Poverty Level.



Institutional Medicaid

- Covers care in a nursing facility once an individual has spent down their assets. Also known as “Long Term Care Services and Supports”(LTSS)
- Eligibility:
- US Citizen, lawful permanent resident whose date of entry is prior to August 22, 1996, or a qualified alien and a resident of Ohio
- Blind, disabled, or 65 or older, and in need of nursing facility services
- Monthly gross income at or below \$2382.00 (2021)
- Countable resources not to exceed \$2000.00
- Eligibility may go back three months from the application date.

Institutional Medicaid Income Rules

- Only the income of the applicant is counted
- The spouse and/or dependents living in the community may be allowed a portion of the institutionalized person’s income
- Individuals with income over \$2382.00 can still qualify for Institutional Medicaid (excess income over this amount must be deposited in a Qualified Income Trust (QIT). See fact sheet on QITs at www.proseniors.org

Institutional Medicaid – Asset Rules

- For the institutionalized person, “countable” assets can be no greater than \$2000.00
- Half of the assets up to approximately \$130,380.00 (2021) can be protected for the spouse living in the community. (Amount changes yearly)
- Countable assets include cash, savings, checking accounts, certificates of deposit, IRAs, real estate property, mortgages, land contracts
- THE HOUSE OF RESIDENCE IS NOT COUNTED AS AN ASSET FOR MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY AS LONG AS THE PERSON, HIS/HER SPOUSE OR A DEPENDANT LIVE IN IT!!
- For a single individual NOT planning to return home from a nursing facility, the house becomes a countable asset and must be sold to pay for care until the assets are again at \$2000.00
- Personal belongings, life insurance with a face value of no more than _____ are NOT counted as assets for Medicaid
- Assets transferred for less than fair market value within 60 months of application for Medicaid may result in a penalty. The penalty is denial of Medicaid benefits for the period of time the assets would have paid for nursing facility care.

Medicaid Waivers in Ohio for: Home Based Care

- Medicaid waivers are programs that fund in-home services to allow an individual to live at home instead of living in a nursing facility.
- Waivers use the same income/asset rules as Institutional Medicaid.
- An individual must also be determined to be at a level of care typically provided in a nursing facility. Level of care is assessed by the Area Agencies on Aging.
- Services include: Personal Care, Homemaker/Chore, Adult Day Services, Home-Delivered Meals, Medical Transportation, Emergency Response Systems, Medical Equipment and Supplies,

The PASSPORT Medicaid Waiver

- Many different waiver programs in Ohio.
- PASSPORT Waiver is for people age 60 and older
- Apply through the Area Agency on Aging for PASSPORT
- Application includes a phone screening, assessment, and application for Institutional Medicaid through the County Department of Job & Family Services
- Assessments are free, and an individual can re-apply if initially determined not eligible
- Individuals who have BOTH Medicare and Medicaid transition to the MyCare Waiver in certain Ohio counties that participate in a pilot project.
- MyCare provides for a Managed Care Organization to coordinate the health care and long-term care benefits for people who have Medicare & Medicaid.

Medicaid Estate Recovery

- Federal law allows Ohio Medicaid to make a legal claim against the estate when the Medicaid recipient and spouse have both died, and there are no surviving children under the age of 21, and no surviving disabled children.
- Estate Recovery may be deferred or waived by the state if it is established that it will create undue hardship (a family-owned business or a farm) that is the survivor's sole source of income
- Consult an attorney experienced in Ohio Medicaid law early on in the Medicaid planning process for guidance regarding estate recovery.

Helpful Websites

- www.aging.ohio.gov- Ohio Dept. of Aging website which highlights many of the programs and services in the state.
- www.ltc.ago.ohio.gov- Long Term Care Consumer Guide Information about nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Ohio. Includes resident satisfaction survey results.
- www.medicare.gov -This is the Federal Government's Medicare website. It has a number of areas called "Compare Areas" that allow you to search for various providers who accept Medicare.
- www.proseniors.org- This web site has very comprehensive and easy to understand fact sheets on legal and benefit issues for residents of Ohio. It also offers limited legal advice and referrals to elder law attorneys to older adults and their families through its phone number which is **1-800-488-6070**.
- www.disabilityrightsohio.org- This website has much information about legal issues and services for Ohio residents who have physical and mental disabilities.

This information is provided by: The National Family Caregiver Support Program



This is a nationally funded program operated in Central Ohio by the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA). It offers caregiver workshops and funds services designed to assist caregivers on a short term basis. The services include: information and assistance, counseling, respite, and other supplemental services.

Request a copy or download our other guide from our website www.coaaa.org:

- Central Ohio Older Adults Resource Guide
- The Caregiver Toolbox
- Central Ohio Long Term Care & Hospice Guide
- Central Ohio Housing & Home Repair Guide
- Central Ohio Private Homecare Guide
- Central Ohio Utility Guide
- Central Ohio Prescription Guide
- Central Ohio Transportation Guide
- Central Ohio Support Group Guide
- Central Ohio Respite Guide
- Central Ohio Moving & Transitions Guide
- Books, Videos, and Websites for Family Caregivers.
- Central Ohio Kinship Care Guide (New)
- Central Ohio Hiring Guide for In Home Caregivers (New)
- Central Ohio Pet Care Guide (New)

The COAAA also provides monthly Caregiver Support Groups & Information Sessions. For more information, call 1-800-589-7277 or visit our website. www.coaaa.org

Or in your county, call one of these agencies:

- **Delaware**-SourcePoint 740-363-6677
- **Fairfield**-Meals on Wheels Older of Fairfield County 740-681-5050
- **Fayette**-Community Action Commission of Fayette Co. 740-335-7282
- **Franklin**-Franklin Co. Office on Aging 614-525-6200
- **Licking**-Licking Co. Aging Program 740-345-0821 or 1-800-452-0097
- **Madison**-Madison Co. Senior Center 740-852-3001
- **Pickaway**-Pickaway County Senior Center 740-474-8831
- **Union**-Union County Senior Services 937-644-1010