

# Medicare Basics

Medicare is a federally sponsored health insurance program for:

- 1) people age 65 and older;
- 2) people younger than 65 with a disability;
- 3) people diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease;
- 4) people with end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

In addition, Medicare provides coverage for hospital care (Part A), medical services (Part B) and prescription drugs (Part D).

Medicare Part C, also known as Medicare Advantage, offers beneficiaries the option of receiving their Medicare benefits through private health plans.

## What Medicare Does Not Cover

Medicare does not cover health care services such as dental care, glasses, and hearing aids. In addition, Medicare does not cover 100% of certain covered costs.

Therefore, many people choose to supplement Medicare with coverage that pays for or reduces their out-of-pocket costs and may provide additional benefits.

## What are the most common ways people supplement Medicare?

People supplement their personal Medicare Plans with:

- 1) Medigap policies,
- 2) Medicare Advantage plans