

How to Apply for Medicare with a Disability

Determine Your Eligibility Requirements:

- **If you have ALS, you're immediately eligible for Medicare after collecting disability benefits.**
- **If you have end-stage renal disease (ESRD), you're eligible if:**
 - You have kidney failure.
 - You require regular dialysis treatments or have had a kidney transplant.
 - You meet one of the following requirements, or you're the spouse or the dependent child of someone who meets one of the following:
 - You're getting or eligible for Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits.
 - You've completed the required working hours under Social Security, with the Railroad Retirement Board or as a government employee.
- **If you have a disability not listed above, you qualify after receiving disability benefits for 24 months.**

What You'll Need to Apply:

- **Date and place of birth.**
 - Permanent Residence Card number if you're not a U.S. citizen.
- **Medicaid number and start and end dates.**
- **Current health insurance information.**
 - Employment start and end dates for the current employer who provides your health insurance coverage through a Group Health Plan.
 - Start and end dates for your current Group Health Insurance coverage.

How To Sign up for Plans:

- **If you have end-stage renal disease (ESRD), you're eligible if:**
 - Medicare Part A and B:
 - Online by filling out the application on the Social Security Administration website.
 - In-person at your local Social Security Office.
 - By calling Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 Monday to Friday between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
 - Medicare Part C and D:
 - Apply during Initial Enrollment, Open Enrollment or General Enrollment periods.
 - Use the plan finder tool to find providers based on location.
 - Join a plan.
 - Medicare Supplement (Medigap):
 - Decide which of the Medigap plans (A–N) meets your needs.
 - Find out which insurance companies offer Medigap plans in your state.
 - Compare costs of different Medigap plans.
 - Buy your Medigap plan.

Next Steps:

- **Receive your Medicare card in the mail:**
 - 3 months before your 65th birthday.
 - 25th month of getting disability benefits if you're automatically enrolled in Part A and B.
 - About two weeks after signing up for Medicare or Social Security benefits.
- **Check your Medicare Summary Notices for mistakes or denials for claims.**