



The Medicare Map . . .

Helping you and your clients navigate the Medicare Maze

Medicare Confusion for Postal Employees and Retirees

If you have clients that are retired or current Postal Service employees . . . they will see changes to their health benefits for 2025.

This is a result of The Postal Service Reform Act, passed into law April 2022. It creates the *Postal Service Health Benefits Program (PSHP)*. A new, separate program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program. *NOTE: Intent is to shift billions of dollars of healthcare costs from the Postal Service to Medicare.*

Our focus is related to the role of Medicare Part B. Previously, postal workers (like federal employees) were not required to enroll in Medicare Part B when they retired and were 65 or older. That is changing for 2025. The impact of this change will vary depending on the postal workers' age and employment status.

Current Employees under the age of 64

Once an employee retires and is age 65 or older, they will be required to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B. Medicare will be the primary claims payor and their PSHP will be secondary (if they choose to stay with their PSHP plan).

Retirees and Current Employees 64 and older

This group will NOT be required to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B, though they may choose to do so. *And doing so, will provide more choices for Medicare Plans which could lead to cost savings.*

For those retirees that are 65 or older, they will be given a chance to enroll in Part B of Medicare WITHOUT PENALTY. The Postal Service will pay the late enrollment penalties for the rest of the retiree's life.

- From 4/1/2024 to 9/30/2024, there will be a one-time only Medicare Special Enrollment Period
- Letters are currently being sent to those that are eligible for this SEP
- USPS estimates 20 percent of retirees are NOT enrolled in Part B of Medicare

This SEP and future Medicare enrollment requirement will cause confusion for postal workers and retirees.

- If I'm a retiree eligible for the SEP, should I sign up for Part B? What will it cost? Should I stay with the new PSHP plan or consider other Medicare plans?

- I plan to retire in 2026 and will need to apply for Medicare. What will it cost? Should I go with the PSHP plan as my supplemental coverage or consider other options?

We're here to help! We can clear up the confusion and educate your postal clients about their Medicare costs and options.

This is intended to be a brief summary of upcoming changes affecting Postal Service workers/retirees specific to Medicare. [Click here for a brochure including additional changes.](#)

Getting Started with MEDICARE

HBS can assist you with enrolling in Medicare whether you're joining at age 65 or older (coming off employer coverage) There is no cost or obligation for the services provided by the team of Medicare Specialists at HBS

STEP 1 Contact HealthCare Benefit Services . . . a local firm in Littleton

Due to Medicare rules, you **must** initiate contact with HBS by

- o Email: advisors@medicarehbs.com or
- o Calling their office: 303-973-6636 or
- o Completing forms on their website: medicarehbs.com and clicking on the "How To Get Started" tab

STEP 2 Appointment to Review ALL Your Options

An experienced Medicare Broker will prepare a thorough analysis of **ALL** the plans and options you are entitled to

- o They'll review detailed plan information and help guide you to the best plan for you
- o They offer flexible meeting options
 - A very simple Screen Share process; you just have to be able to open an email or
 - In person meetings at their office in Littleton or you can meet at your financial advisor's office


STEP 3 Enrolling in Your Plan

HBS utilizes a streamlined electronic application process to submit your plan application. Their office will monitor your application and call you once you're enrolled and let you know when to expect your new insurance cards.

STEP 4 Ongoing Customer Service

The HBS support staff has more than 15 years of Medicare experience

- o They answer their phones – no phone tree
- o Every Fall HBS will send you a newsletter about Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period (October 15 to December 7th), and reviewing your plan
- o This annual review can save you \$100s to \$1000s per year on your medications

Medicarehbs.com  HealthCare Benefit Services 303-973-6636

Referring Clients To HBS . . . How We Support Advisors and Help Their Clients

- We represent all plans (Medicare Supplement, Drug Plans, and Medicare Advantage), and all major companies
- Our process is thorough, no obligation and no pressure
- We're available to conduct Medicare webinars for your clients
- We are NOT your competition - Medicare and Long Term Care are all we do

Click on the "Getting Started with MEDICARE" flyer to print and share the steps of working with HBS.

To learn more about our process, visit [our website](#) or call our office 303-973-6636.

Feel free to forward The Medicare Map monthly newsletter to other advisors you think would benefit from the services of Tammy and her team.





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