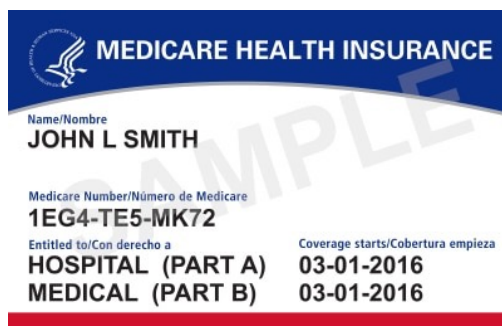


## Using Your Medicare Card



Your Medicare card has a unique number just for you. It is not your Social Security Number. This helps keep your identity safe.

### What's on your Medicare card?

Your card includes:

- Whether you have **Medicare Part A** (Hospital), **Medicare Part B** (Medical), or both.
- The date your coverage begins.

### How do you get your Medicare card?

Once you sign up for Medicare, you will receive your card in a [welcome packet](#). If you did not receive your Medicare card by mail, you can print your official card by visiting [Medicare.gov](#) and creating a secure Medicare account.

If you receive benefits from the **Railroad Retirement Board (RRB)** and have not received your card by mail, visit [RRB.gov](#) for more information.

### Keep your Medicare number safe

Treat your Medicare number like a credit card number. Only share it with:

- Doctors and healthcare providers.
- Your insurance company or Medicare health plan.
- Trusted people who help with Medicare, such as the **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)**.  
Learn more at [SHIPhelp.org](#).

### Beware of scams

Never share your Medicare number or personal information with anyone who contacts you unexpectedly—whether by phone, email, or in person.

- If someone asks for your Medicare number, requests money, or threatens to cancel your benefits, **hang up** immediately and **call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. TTY users can call **1-877-486-2048**.
- Medicare will **never** call you to request personal information unless you initiated the contact.

## Carrying your Medicare card

You need your Medicare card to:

- Join a **Medicare Advantage plan (Part C) or drug (part D)** plan.
- Buy a **Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap)** plan.

## If you have Original Medicare:

- Carry your Medicare card when you travel.
- Show your card when visiting a doctor, hospital, or other healthcare provider.
- If you have a separate drug plan or supplemental insurance, carry those cards too.

## If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan:

- Use your plan's card for healthcare services instead of your Medicare card.
- Keep your Medicare card in a safe place in case you switch plans or return to Original Medicare later.

## How to get a new Medicare card

If your Medicare card is **lost or damaged**, visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) and log into or create a secure Medicare account to print or order a new one. You can also call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. **TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048**.

If you receive benefits from the **Railroad Retirement Board (RRB)**, call **1-877-772-5772** for a replacement card. **TTY users can call 1-312-751-4701**.

If your **name has changed**, your Medicare card will show the name on file with **Social Security**. [Contact Social Security](#) for updates.

## Protect Your Identity

If you think someone is using your Medicare number, call Medicare at **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**.

If you believe you were a victim of identity theft or mistakenly shared personal information, contact the [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](#).