

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. A federal agency that administers the Medicare and Medicaid programs for the federal government.

Medicare. A public health insurance program run by the federal government that provides health insurance for Americans aged 65 and older.

Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA). A legislative act that governs the taxes that fund Social Security and Medicare.

Medicare Part A. Provides insurance benefits for hospital stays.

hospice care. Physical care and counseling for terminally ill patients.

custodial care. Nursing home care or in-home care for people who need help with activities like bathing and dressing.

Medicare Part B. The provision of Medicare that generally pays for doctor's visits and medical services.

outpatient hospital care. Medical care provided in a medical setting that generally does not require an overnight stay.

physical therapy. Bodily therapy and exercise that helps individuals with illness or injury to recover.

occupational therapy. A type of therapy that helps individuals live as independently as possible.

preventive services. Medical services that include certain vaccines, wellness visits, and tests that screen for cancer and other diseases.

Medicare Part D. A voluntary program that helps seniors pay for prescription drugs.

Medicare Part C. Extra coverage purchased from private companies by Medicare participants to cover health services not provided by Medicare itself, such as vision and dental.

Medicare Advantage plans. A managed-care plan that delivers health care through provider networks with the aim of controlling costs.

Medigap insurance. Also known as Medicare supplemental insurance, it is an insurance plan available to Medicare Part A and Part B participants that pays otherwise uncovered expenses, such as copays and deductibles.

Medicaid. A federally mandated public health insurance program that helps low-income individuals and some others receive health care.

mandate. A requirement that carries the force of the law.

assets. Things that can be sold to produce income.