AMERICAN RETIREMENT ADVISOR

A guidepost to your successful retirement.

Leaving Employer Group Insurance and Enrolling in Medicare

If you intend to leave employer group health insurance after you are age 65 and Medicareeligible, you are in luck. Medicare works wonderfully for over 56 million Americans.

Unfortunately, the government has made the rules a little bit cumbersome if you leave within the 6 months immediately following your 65th birthday. The charts following are our best efforts in helping you determine when your "Eligible to Enroll" and "NOT – ELIGIBLE" to enroll months are.

After the 7th month of your Medicare eligibility has passed, you will be free to begin Medicare any month you wish.

Key points to remember: (1) COBRA is not considered employee group health insurance and will not allow you to enroll in Medicare based on the rules illustrated on the following pages, and (2) Your employee group health insurance must insure at least 20 employee lives to be considered *credible coverage* under Medicare's guidelines.

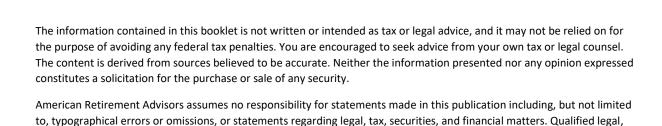
Leaving Employer group insurance within the 7th month of Medicare eligibility

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3 Months	2 Months	1 Month	Month of	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
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			_		Medicare		Medicare		
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January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
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July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
E-3	E-2	E-1	E	E+1	E+2	E+3	E+4	E+5	E+6
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Eligibility	Eligibility	Eligibility	Liigioiiity				Must use	Must use	Must use
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Medicare	Medicare	Medicare	Medicare	Medicare	Medicare	Medicare	or	or	or
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			Medicare	Medicare	Cannot	Medicare	Parts A & B Cannot	Parts A & B Medicare	Parts A & B
			Coverage	Coverage	Begin	Coverage	Parts A & B Cannot Begin	Parts A & B Medicare Coverage	Medicare Coverage
							Parts A & B Cannot	Parts A & B Medicare	Medicare Coverage
			Coverage	Coverage Can Begin	Begin Medicare	Coverage	Parts A & B Cannot Begin	Parts A & B Medicare Coverage	Medicare Coverage
			Coverage Can Begin	Coverage Can Begin No	Begin Medicare	Coverage Can Begin	Parts A & B Cannot Begin	Parts A & B Medicare Coverage	Medicare Coverage
Can enroll	Can enroll	Can enroll	Coverage Can Begin	Coverage Can Begin No Can enroll	Begin Medicare tes: Can enroll	Coverage Can Begin	Cannot Begin Medicare	Medicare Coverage Can Begin	Medicare Coverage Can Begin
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online for "Month of Eligibility"	online for "Month of Eligibility"	online for "Month of Eligibility"	Can Begin Can enroll online Part A will begin Month of Eligibility Part B will	Can Begin No Can enroll online Part A will begin Month of Eligibility Part B will	Begin Medicare Ites: Can enroll online Part A will begin Month of Eligibility Part B will	Can enroll online Part A will begin Month of Eligibility Part B will	Cannot Begin Medicare Must use Special Election to Enroll or wait for next	Medicare Coverage Can Begin Must use Special Election to Enroll or wait for next	Medicare Coverage Can Begin Must use Special Election to Enroll or wait for next

Medicare start dates revolve around a complex set of rules. Separating from creditable employer group coverage while still in the initial enrollment period of Medicare must follow the start dates listed above as interpreted from SSA.gov and Medicare.gov.

Leaving Employer group insurance after the 7th month of Medicare eligibility.

Suggested Date	✓	Steps
		1. Get form CMS-L546 (CMS-R-297) Just google it!
		2. Obtain proof of creditable coverage from your
		employer(s). Use Form CMS-L546 (CMS-R-297). You
		will need a form completed for each employer that
		provided coverage while you were Medicare eligible.
		3. Enroll in Medicare Part A&B and give the completed
		form, in person, to a Social Security agent. We
		suggest an in-person visit to enroll and present the
		proof of creditable coverage. Then ASK for a receipt
		showing you have initiated the Medicare Part A and
		Part B enrollment process. (Social security officially
		describes the receipt as an Application Summary).
		4. Enroll in a Medicare Plan. Provide your new Medicare
		Card with Medicare Parts A&B, or the Application
		Summary, to your advisor to complete your
		application for a Medicare plan. Keep in mind,
		standard Medicare Supplement or Medicare
		Advantage application processing ranges from 10 to
		15 days.



For information about planning for long-term care...

tax, securities, and financial advisors should always be consulted before acting on any information concerning these fields.

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