

Section 9: Your Complete Medicare & Healthcare Planning Checklist

Medicare Enrollment & Plan Selection

- Reviewed the difference between Original Medicare + Medigap vs. Medicare Advantage
- Compared HMO vs. PPO coverage based on travel, doctor access, and specialist needs
- Checked whether your preferred doctors accept your selected plan
- Researched network hospitals and local clinics
- Evaluated whether a Medigap plan offers better predictability
- Reviewed Medicare.gov plan comparisons
- Verified premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance for each part of Medicare
- Understood IRMAA surcharges if applicable

Prescription Drug Planning (Part D)

- Created a list of all medications you take
- Checked each medication's drug tier
- Reviewed your deductible and whether it applies to brand-name drugs
- Compared retail vs. mail-order pharmacy prices
- Verified preferred pharmacies for your plan
- Understood how the donut hole (coverage gap) might impact costs
- Investigated costs for GLP-1 or other specialty medications
- Reviewed your Part D plan annually during open enrollment

Selecting Healthcare Professionals

- Confirmed which doctors are in-network (HMO)
- Verified which providers accept Medicare reimbursement (PPO)
- Made a list of doctors you want to keep
- Checked availability and whether they accept new Medicare patients
- Selected a primary care physician
- Identified specialists you may need
- If moving, requested referrals and checked Medicare acceptance in the new area

Long-Term Care Planning

- Identified long-term care preferences (in-home care, assisted living, etc.)
- Discussed potential family caregiving roles
- Considered compensating family caregivers
- Reviewed long-term care insurance or hybrid policies
- Added long-term care expenses to your healthcare budget
- Evaluated whether Medicaid planning is appropriate
- Discussed long-term care wishes with family members

Legal Protections & Documentation

- Durable Power of Attorney completed
- Healthcare Power of Attorney completed
- Advance Directive / Living Will updated
- HIPAA Authorization in place
- Last Will and Testament updated
- Trusts reviewed or established if appropriate
- Beneficiary designations updated
- Family Care Agreement created if needed
- Funeral and final arrangement instructions documented

Building Your Annual Healthcare Budget

- Entered premiums into your monthly budget
- Estimated prescription costs
- Reviewed out-of-pocket medical expenses
- Added dental, vision, and hearing expenses
- Included preventive care and wellness costs
- Added long-term care projections
- Created a healthcare emergency fund
- Updated your budget using the RetireCoast Retirement Budget Tool
- Reviewed your budget during Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period

Communication & Annual Review

- Shared your healthcare plan with family
- Reviewed your plan each year
- Updated legal documents as needed
- Adjusted long-term care preferences annually