



The importance of enrolling in Medicare Part A and Part B

To be eligible for the UT CARE™ Medicare PPO plan, you must sign up for Medicare Part A and Part B and continue to pay your Part B premium.

- UT CARE is a Medicare Advantage plan. It is another way to get your Medicare Part A and Part B coverage and benefits beyond what is covered by Original Medicare.
- Medicare Advantage plans, sometimes called 'Part C' or 'MA Plans,' are offered by Medicare-approved companies like Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas. These plans must follow rules set by Medicare. To pay for beneficiaries' care, Medicare pays a fixed amount each month to the companies offering Medicare Advantage Plans.
- When enrolling in UT CARE, you must provide the 11-character Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) located on your red, white, and blue Medicare card, along with your effective date. Enrollment in UT CARE cannot proceed without the MBI number. You can add your MBI in My UT Benefits which you can access at utbenefits.link/manage.
- UT CARE coverage is effective on the first day of the month following the date the application was processed, or the Medicare Part A and Part B effective date, whichever is later.
- You will be subject to late enrollment penalties if you delay signing up for Medicare Part A and Part B.

How to enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B

Enroll through the Social Security Administration (SSA):

- In person at your local SSA office,
- Call SSA at **1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)**, or
- Visit SSA online.

Most people should enroll in Medicare Part A (hospital coverage) during the Initial Enrollment Period (IEP). SSA will send you enrollment instructions at the beginning of your IEP. This is the period when you can enroll in Medicare for the first time. It is a 7-month period that begins three months before the month you turn 65, includes the month you turn 65, and runs for three months after the month you turned 65. For example, if you were born in June, your window to enroll is March 1 through September 30.

If you're already receiving Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A at the start of your Initial Enrollment Period. However, you will need to contact SSA to sign up for Part B.

If you do not receive instructions from the SSA, please call **1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)** or visit the SSA online to enroll in Medicare. Enrollment takes time to process, so if you plan to retire at age 65 we recommend enrolling three months prior to your 65th birthday.



Call UT CARE Customer Service **1-877-842-7562 TTY 711** to learn how your retiree plan will work with Medicare.

UT CARE Medicare PPO is an open access Medicare Advantage PPO plan. On occasion, you may receive automated communications that reference plan name 'Blue Cross Group Medicare Advantage Open Access (PPO)SM'. This plan name also refers to UT CARE Medicare PPO.

PPO plans provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, which refers to HCSC Insurance Services Company (HISC) and GHS Insurance Company (GHSIC). PPO employer/union group plans provided by Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company (HCSC). HCSC, HISC, and GHSIC are Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. HCSC, HISC, and GHSIC are Medicare Advantage organizations with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in these plans depends on contract renewal