



# Cowen

**TAX ADVISORY GROUP**

Tax, Insurance & Retirement Planning

**860-676-1100**

**[www.CowenTaxGroup.com](http://www.CowenTaxGroup.com)**



# MEDICARE

*Investment Advisory Services are offered through SGL Financial, LLC, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor.  
Insurance and other financial products are offered separately through individually licensed and appointed*



### **1) Review your current health insurance plan**

What does your health insurance look like now? Whether you hold your health insurance privately, through an employer, or are already enrolled in Medicare, you should take stock of your current coverage. Make a list of features you like in your current plan, as well as any drawbacks, such as high premiums or exorbitant out-of-pocket prescription costs. Knowing what services you use and what you like will help you find a Medicare plan that fits your needs.



### **2) Enroll in Medicare Parts A and/or B**

Before you can sign up for a private Medicare plan, you'll need to enroll in Original Medicare. If you're already drawing Social Security, your Medicare card should arrive in the mail three months before your 65th birthday. Not ready to start receiving your social security benefits? To enroll in Medicare only, you can fill out this online form, call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, or visit your local Social Security office in-person.



### **3) Compile a list of medications**

Create a full, written list of your prescriptions and their dosages. It's also a good idea to ask your doctor if there are any additional meds you may need after age 65. This will help you determine how much prescription drug coverage you need.



### **4) Talk to your doctors about the change**

Not all doctors accept Medicare; among those that do, not all will accept your specific plan. If you want to keep your current doctor, get a list of the Medicare plans the office accepts. At Cowen Tax Advisory Group, we always help clients find a plan that fits their chosen providers.



### **5) Meet with a local Medicare expert**

Emphasis on local. Medicare insurance experts have an in-depth knowledge of plans available in your area and will help you find the right plan for your needs. They can also tell you how to take advantage of local benefits that a long-distance agent might miss.



### **6) Make sure your plan can travel**

All Medicare plans will cover emergency treatment wherever you go, but non-emergency medical services are a different story. If you plan to travel out of state or out of the country, make sure your Medicare plan can go with you. Otherwise, you might end up spending your vacation fund on unwieldy medical bills.



### **7) Stay up to date**

Plans change year-to-year. Benefits come and go, premiums go up, new plans with new benefits are added. We recommend checking in every year to make sure your current plan is still the best fit for your needs.