

2025 Changes

*** Everyone's plan D is changing ***

- The part D plans now have the ability to budget your drug costs across the year – similar to how utilities average the bill to level year around – BUT
 - o you have to ask your plan to allow your pharmacy to shift costs
 - o you will pay the plan for medication, not the pharmacy
- The Part D for everyone now has a maximum out of pocket (MOOP) of \$2,000

This means everyone's Part D coverage has changed.

Also –

- the Plan provider has had much of the costs shifted on to them, as the Medicare funding for part D has been cut by the *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022*
 - o to see a chart of how that altered your costs – see the last page

What this does to Part D coverage:

- Some Plan formularies changed, and
 - o drugs are pushed into higher tiers for 2025
 - o drugs are dropped from formularies
- Some plans put the deductible back in for Part D, up to the allowed \$590

What this does to Part C coverage (Medicare Advantage)

In addition to the above changes to the plan's Part D benefit

- Some Medicare Advantage plans shifted the costs around, and increased co-pays elsewhere to make up the higher costs

What should I do?

Step 1 - read your annual notice of change, and see what your plan did

Step 2 – review other plans to find your best 2025 option

Please use a site that does NOT ask for your name and phone number, those sites are a scam to get Permission to Contact

Step 3 – pick the plan for 2025, and sign up if you need to change

To shop plans by **TOTAL ANNUAL COST**, as well as just **ANNUAL DRUG COSTS**,

Go to my web site [SpekServices.com](https://www.spekservices.com) It is set up for anonymity & is **NO CHARGE**.

The following steps will get you to the national plan search without having to provide name or phone number, and can be done on a smart phone or a computer.

- Open the web page [SpekServices.com](https://www.spekservices.com)
- Open the menu (three horizontal bars) & click on “Getting Started”
- Click on “ Shop Part D (Drug) & Part C (Medicare Advantage) Plans” that will open my nation plan shopping page
- **DO NOT** enter your zip code or select your county, and **DO NOT** press the blue button “View plans”
Instead, scroll down and click “Enter your preferences”
- Enter your drugs and pharmacy to shop Part D plans, and enter Providers / doctors to shop Part C plans, and follow the remaining prompts for personalized plan shopping
 - Shop to your satisfaction

Note: If you want over the phone or in person help...formal permission is required from you.

- For an impromptu phone call, I can take that verbally on the recorded line at the time of the inbound call, to satisfy regulations
- Center for Medicare Services regulations require a permission to contact 48 hours prior to a scheduled meeting except for the last days of the month. To satisfy the meeting requirement, I have put the permission link on my web page, also under “Getting Started”

*** Frequently Asked Questions ***

Why NOT to use Medicare.gov for shopping? Medicare.gov is well known

- to be late in posting correct plan information,
- has information errors, with no liability for getting it incorrect
- has errors in calculations – my own drug costs were off 75% in 2024
- does not have direct on the site purchase links

*** Laws you can use ***

In 2023, CMS put in “NO Telemarketing Laws” without Permission to Contact but people claiming to be with Medicare still call

Here is a pro tip to get them weeded out, IF you still take a call:

Ask them to send you the Permission to Contact form you signed

If they are legit – they will send it

If they are scams, they will hang up, or try to bluff through it, and you hang up on the crook instead.

2024 saw a new law passed that makes re-selling your contact information illegal.

This is discussed in the following article

<https://www.ropesdataphiles.com/2023/12/you-better-watch-out-you-better-not-crytelemarketing-changes-are-coming-to-town-in-2024/>

*** Other items ***

Medicare Part B deductible for 2025

It is projected to be \$257, up from \$240 in 2024.

However, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will not finalize the deductible until later in the fall of 2024.

Cost of Living Adjustment (CoLA) for 2025

It is projected to be 2.5 or 2.6%

later in October 2024, the 2025 COLA Increase Amount will be formally announced by the Social Security Administration.

Low Income Assistance Changes

Starting in 2024, people with Medicare who have incomes up to 150% of poverty level, and resources at or below the limits for partial low-income subsidy benefits will be eligible for full benefits under the Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) Program. The law eliminates the partial LIS benefit currently in place for individuals with incomes between 135% and 150% of poverty.

For 2024, 150% of 2024 FPL is \$22,590 for 1 person, \$30,660 for 2 people, \$38,730 for a 3 person household, and the more people in the household, the higher the allowed income of the person(s). Contact me to apply.

*** Of interest ***

2023 saw a study done on consumer satisfaction for Medicare Advantage that may be of interest. The satisfaction level was well over 90%

That can be found at

https://bettermedicarealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/BMA_Seniors-on-Medicare-Memo_final_R1.pdf

In 2022, a 5 year study completed and published on Medicare Claim denials. The highlight of that study is “Traditional Medicare's coverage rules accounted for 85% of denied services and 64% of denied spending” Sep 12, 2022

That NIH link is

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9465897/#:~:text=Traditional%20Medicare's%20coverage%20rules%20accounted,additional%20Medicare%20Advantage%20insurer%20rules.>

The following is from the Part D report from KFF.org

<https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/changes-to-medicare-part-d-in-2024-and-2025-under-the-inflation-reduction-act-and-how-enrollees-will-benefit/>

and the following chart on how 2024 Part D is funded is from that report, figure 4

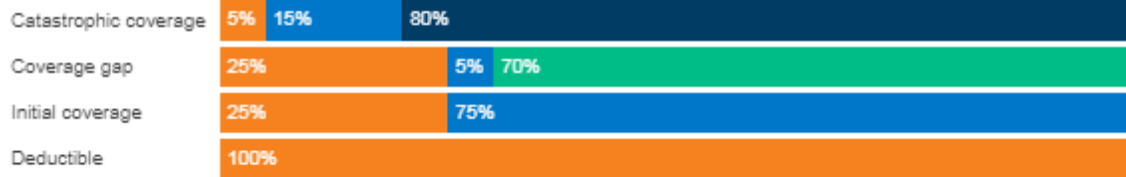
Figure 4

The Share of Medicare Part D Drug Costs Paid by Enrollees, Plans, Drug Manufacturers, and Medicare Will Change in 2024 and 2025

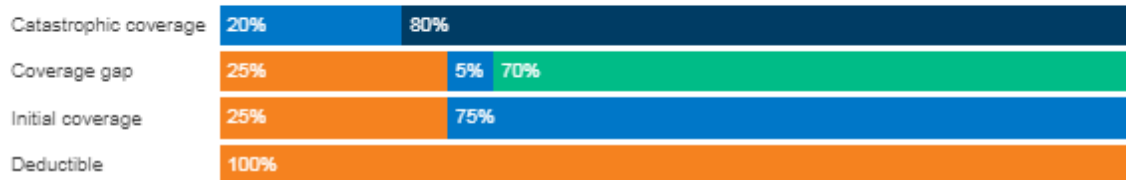
Share of total drug costs paid by:

■ Part D enrollees
 ■ Part D plans
 ■ Drug manufacturers
 ■ Medicare

2023



2024



2025



NOTE: The manufacturer discount applies to brand-name drug costs only. For generic drug costs, plans pay 75% in the coverage gap phase in 2023 and 2024, and 75% in the initial coverage phase in 2025, and Medicare will pay 40% in the catastrophic coverage phase in 2025.
 SOURCE: KFF, based on Medicare Part D benefit design changes in the Inflation Reduction Act. • PNG

KFF