



Some food for thought, etc.

February 2019

What Will You Pay for Medicare in 2019?

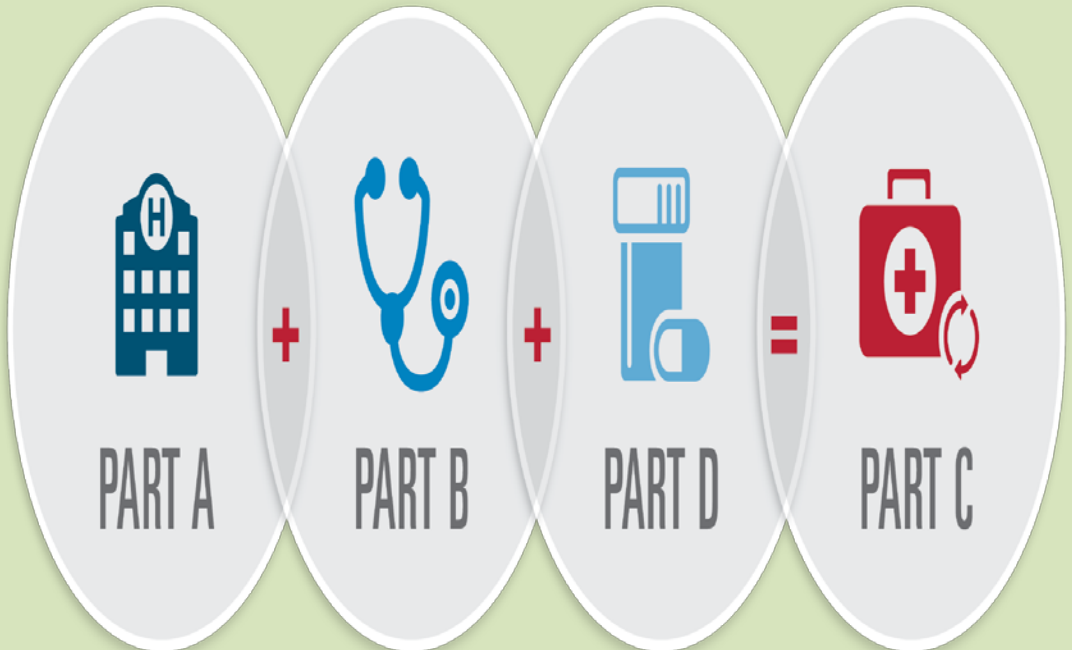
Medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance amounts change annually. Here's a look at some of the costs that will apply in 2019 if you're enrolled in Original Medicare (Part A and Part B).

Medicare Part B premiums

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), most people with Medicare who receive Social Security benefits will pay the standard monthly Part B premium of \$135.50 in 2019. However, if your premiums are deducted from your Social Security benefits, and the increase in your benefit payments for 2019 will not be enough to cover the Medicare Part B increase, then you may pay less than the standard Part B premium.



Alexander Parris
President
Financial Advisor



People with higher incomes may pay more than the standard premium. If your modified adjusted gross income as reported on your federal income tax return from two years ago is above a certain amount, you'll pay the standard premium amount and an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA), which is an extra charge added to your premium, as shown in the following table.



“Financial crises require governments.”
- Timothy Geithner



“Great money management is not a prediction, but a disciplined reaction.”
- Bill Miller



“Derivatives are financial weapons of mass destruction.”
- Warren Buffett



“Wall Street people learn nothing and forget everything.”
- Benjamin Graham

You filed an individual income tax return for 2017 with income that was:	You filed a joint income tax return for 2017 with income that was:	You filed an income tax return for 2017 as married filing separately with income that was:	Monthly premium in 2019 including any IRMAA is:
\$85,000 or less	\$170,000 or less	\$85,000 or less	\$135.50
Above \$85,000 up to \$107,000	Above \$170,000 up to \$214,000	N/A	\$189.60
Above \$107,000 up to \$133,500	Above \$214,000 up to \$267,000	N/A	\$270.90
Above \$133,500 up to \$160,000	Above \$267,000 up to \$320,000	N/A	\$352.20
Above \$160,000 and less than \$500,000	Above \$320,000 and less than \$750,000	Above \$85,000 and less than \$415,000	\$433.40
\$500,000 and above	\$750,000 and above	\$415,000 and above	\$460.50

Other Medicare costs

Other Medicare Part A and Part B costs in 2019 include the following:

- The annual Medicare Part B deductible for Original Medicare is \$185.
- The monthly Medicare Part A premium for those who need to buy coverage will cost up to \$437. However, most people don't pay a premium for Medicare Part A.
- The Medicare Part A deductible for inpatient hospitalization is \$1,364 per benefit period. An additional daily coinsurance amount of \$341 will apply for days 61 through 90, and \$682 for stays beyond 90 days.
- Beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities will pay a daily coinsurance amount of \$170.50 for days 21 through 100 in a benefit period.

Recipe of the Month

Chocolate Pudding with Raspberries and Gingersnaps

With Valentine's Day rapidly approaching, I found myself in need of a quick easy dessert. In this recipe, gingersnap crumbs, chocolate pudding and fresh raspberries are layered in a martini glass to create an elegant dessert for your sweetie.

Ingredients:

About 20 gingersnap cookies

1 package chocolate cook and chill pudding

1 (6 ounce) container of fresh raspberries



Directions:

First prepare the pudding according to the package directions, let chill at least 1 hour.

Place cookies in a large plastic, resealable bag. Crush them with a rolling pin. You should have about 1 cup when finished. (*Note:* These crumbs don't need to be super small, in fact its good if you keep some larger pieces.)

In a martini glass, layer, in this order, gingersnap crumbs, chocolate pudding, raspberries, chocolate pudding, and cookie crumbs. Serve chilled.