

Mysteries of Medicare: Creating a MyMedicare Account

A MyMedicare account is a helpful online tool that you, as a Medicare beneficiary, can access easily.

There are a number of useful features of these accounts:

- Probably the most frequently used feature is the ability to enter, save, and edit a list of your prescription drugs and preferred pharmacies. This simplifies using the Medicare Plan Finder to compare Part D (prescription) and Part C (Medicare Advantage) plans during the Annual Open Enrollment Period (October 15th through December 7th). Without an account, you must enter your drug list each time you want to check your coverage. Even if you are not a regular computer user, having this available will be a big help to a PA MEDI counselor or other person helping you shop for your next plan.
- You can print out a copy of your Medicare card if yours is damaged or lost.
- Your current plans, including the subscriber number, are available to you online.
- If you have Original Medicare, you can view the details of your claims as soon as they are processed, and view claims up to 36 months old. Your Medicare Summary Notices are also available, and if you want, you can receive them electronically rather than wait for paper copies in the mail. Any of this information can be downloaded and printed out. (Those of you with Medicare Advantage plans get all your claims information through your plan provider).
- You can choose to receive email notifications from Medicare with information about preventive services and account alerts.

To set up an account, go to www.Medicare.gov, click on the “Log in/Create Account” button near the top of the screen and follow the instructions. For more guidance, SHINE, Massachusetts’ version of PA MEDI, has produced a helpful short video on how to set up a MyMedicare account: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubkMZBNr8-I> . And, of course, PA MEDI counselors are always available to assist you.

Pennsylvania Medicare and Decision Insight, PA MEDI, is Pennsylvania’s statewide program of free, unbiased insurance consultation under the auspices of the Chester County Department of Aging Services and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). To reach a counselor about this topic or other Medicare services, call the PA MEDI Helpline, 610-344-5004, option 2. Leave a message and a certified counselor will call you back, usually within one business day.