

# Initial Enrollment Period (IEP) Guide



NEW TO MEDICARE? A STEP BY STEP GUIDE

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## Your IEP is the first opportunity you have to enroll into Medicare Advantage and in stand alone Prescription Drug Plans.

Your IEP is a seven month period surrounding the month you turn 65, the three months before, and the three months following. You may enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan or a stand alone prescription drug plan (PDP) at anytime during this period, though when you choose to enroll will dictate when your coverage becomes effective.

As part of this enrollment period, you must be signed up for Parts A and B through Social Security if you're planning on enroll in an Advantage plan. You must be signed up for at least Part A if you'd like a Part D prescription drug plan. If you are already collecting Social Security, you will be automatically enrolled in Parts A and B, and you will receive a Medicare card. If not, you'll have to sign up yourself, which we have a guide on as well at [www.tindon.com/resources](http://www.tindon.com/resources). See an example below for a beneficiary turning 65 on April 10<sup>th</sup> whose IEP begins January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends July 31<sup>st</sup>.

65th Birthday: April 10



Enrolling **before** your birth month will get you coverage starting **April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

If you enroll **during** your birth month, whether it's before or after your actual date of birth, your coverage will start the **following month, May 1<sup>st</sup>** in this example.

Enrolling in the **three months following** your birth month will cause your coverage to begin the **subsequent month from when the application is submitted**. For example, if you apply on the last day of your window, **July 31<sup>st</sup>**, your coverage will be active starting **August 1<sup>st</sup>**.

If your birthday falls on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, your enrollment period will remain the same, but your coverage can begin the month before your birthday.

See below for an alternate version of the previous IEP if your birthday were to fall on April 1<sup>st</sup> rather than the 10<sup>th</sup> which shows that if you apply in before March 1<sup>st</sup>, you'll be able to start coverage in March, before turning 65!



As you can see, there is plenty of time surrounding turning 65 to sign up for Medicare. Many like to use this window to plan their retirement. If you're deciding to work past 65, that's okay too! Just make sure to sign up for Part A and delay Part B to avoid a penalty. You can do this by submitting proof of credible coverage in place of Medicare, like your employer plan. See a guide for this at [www.tindon.com/resources](http://www.tindon.com/resources).

## Tindon Health & Wealth

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