



MEDICARE DRUG COVERAGE UNDER PART A, PART B, AND PART D

This table identifies Medicare coverage of medically-necessary drugs in some common situations. It provides general guidance only and does not cover all possible situations. For detailed coverage information, see appendix C-1 in chapter 6 of the Medicare Part D Manual, which is available online at [CMS.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/Downloads/Part-D-Benefits-Manual-Chapter-6.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/Downloads/Part-D-Benefits-Manual-Chapter-6.pdf). For detailed coverage information for enrollees of a Medicare Advantage Plan who have elected hospice, see Section 10.4 of Chapter 4 of the Medicare Managed Care Manual which is available online at [CMS.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/mc86c04.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/mc86c04.pdf).

Type of Coverage	Location	Medication	Part	Comments
1. Original Medicare and a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) (for coverage information for those in hospice, see Section 3)	Hospital (in-patient) or skilled nursing facility	Any	Part A	Part A coverage is subject to certain limits; drugs may be covered by Part B or Part D for stays not covered by Part A. For Medicare-covered stays in skilled nursing facilities, certain high-intensity chemotherapy drugs remain separately billable under Part B, outside of the facility's bundled Part A payment.
	Doctor's Office	Injectable/IV drugs given by a doctor and not usually self-administered	Part B	Eligible for Part D coverage if purchased at a pharmacy and administered by a doctor
		Vaccines: pneumococcal pneumonia, influenza, and (for intermediate-to-high-risk people) Hepatitis B; and some other vaccines related to injury or illness	Part B	
		All other vaccines	Part D*	
	Home	Drugs that must be administered by Medicare-covered durable medical equipment (DME), e.g., nebulizer or infusion pump	Part B	
	Long-Term Care**	Drugs that must be administered by Medicare-covered durable medical equipment (DME), e.g., nebulizer or infusion pump	Part D	

Type of Coverage	Location	Medication	Part	Comments
Continued Original Medicare and a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) (for coverage information for those in hospice, see Section 3)	Home or Long-Term Care	Insulin and injection supplies (syringes, needles, alcohol swabs, and gauze)	Part D	Blood glucose testing supplies covered by Part B (DME)
	Home or Long-Term Care	Immunosuppressive drugs for a person who received a Medicare-covered transplant	Part B	Eligible for Part D coverage for other situations
	Home or Long-Term Care	Some oral anti-cancer drugs	Part B for cancer treatment	Eligible for Part D coverage for other situations
	Home or Long-Term Care	Some oral antiemetic drugs used within 48 hours of chemotherapy	Part B	Eligible for Part D coverage For other situations
	Home or Long-Term Care	Erythropoietin (EPO) for anemia in people with chronic renal failure who are undergoing dialysis	Part B	Eligible for Part D coverage for other situations
	Home or Long-Term Care	Parenteral nutrition or tube feeding for permanent dysfunction of digestive tract	Part B	Covered by Part D for other situations
2. Medicare Advantage Plan with drug coverage (MA-PD) (for coverage information for those in hospice, see Section 3)	Any	Any	Plan provides all Part A, Part B, and Part D covered services, including prescription drugs	
	End-Stage Renal Dialysis (ESRD) Facility	All drugs and biologicals used for the treatment of ESRD	Part B, included in the ESRD Prospective Payment (PPS) amount	Drugs and biologicals furnished to ESRD beneficiaries that are not used for the treatment of ESRD may be paid separately.
3. Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage Plan AND elected hospice care	Any	Drugs for symptom control or pain relief	Part A	
	Any	Drug treatment intended to cure the terminal illness and/or related conditions	Not covered by Medicare	A person can stop hospice care and go back to his or her previous Medicare coverage at any time.

Type of Coverage	Location	Medication	Part	Comments
Continued Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage Plan AND elected hospice care	Any	For a condition unrelated to the terminal illness and related conditions	Same as for non-hospice care	Medicare Advantage enrollees have the choice (for drugs covered by Part B) to obtain the drugs from either Part B or the Medicare Advantage Plan. However, cost-sharing may differ depending on where the drug was obtained.
4. Original Medicare with PDP or Medicare Advantage Plan AND Medicaid	Home or Long-Term Care	Drugs excluded by law from Part D	Not covered by Medicare	For optional state coverage of Medicare-excluded drugs, see Medicaid.gov.
	Hospital or skilled nursing facility	Drugs excluded by law from Part D	Part A	Part A coverage is subject to certain limits; drugs may be covered by Part B or Part D for stays not covered by Part A. For Medicare-covered stays in skilled nursing facilities, certain high-intensity chemotherapy drugs remain separately billable under Part B, outside of the facility's bundled Part A payment.

* Drugs are covered under Part D to the extent they are included on the formulary (list of covered drugs) for the person's plan. If a person's drug is not covered, he or she can ask the plan for a coverage determination, but may have to pay full price for that drug. For more information, see "Your Guide to Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage," CMS Publication Number 11109, at www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11109.pdf.

** Long-term care facilities include skilled nursing facilities (for stays not covered by Medicare), nursing homes which give skilled care, and institutions which give skilled care. Generally, "home" care setting includes Medicare-covered home health care, and "doctor's office" care includes hospital outpatient care.