



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop N2-04-27  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Dear Medicare Beneficiary:

As a person with Medicare, you deserve to get the highest quality medical care when you need it, from doctors that you trust. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is the federal agency that administers the Medicare program and our responsibility is to ensure that you get that high quality care at a reasonable price. One of the ways we can fulfill that responsibility is to find out directly from you about the care you are currently receiving under the Medicare program and your Medicare health plan.

CMS is conducting a survey of people in Medicare health plans to learn more about the health care and services you receive. Your name was selected at random by CMS from among the enrollees in your health plan. We would greatly appreciate it if you would take the time, about 20 minutes, to fill out this questionnaire. The accuracy of the results depends on getting answers from you and other people with Medicare selected for this survey. This is your opportunity to help us, and your health plan, serve you better.

If you changed your Medicare plan for 2009, please answer the questions in the survey thinking about your experiences in the last six months of 2008. All information you provide will be held in confidence and is protected by the Privacy Act. The information you provide will not be shared with anyone other than authorized persons at CMS and Wilkerson & Associates, the survey research organization assisting us in this survey. **You do not have to participate in this survey. Your help is voluntary, and your decision to participate or not to participate will not affect your Medicare benefits in any way.** However, your knowledge and experiences will help other people with Medicare make more informed choices about their health plan, so we hope you will choose to help us.

If you have any questions about the survey or would like to find out how to complete the survey by phone, please don't hesitate to call Chris Allen with Wilkerson & Associates toll-free at 1-866-406-1110, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and midnight Eastern time.

Thank you for your help with this important survey.

Sincerely,

Walter Stone  
Privacy Officer

## MEDICARE SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

***This survey asks about you and the health care you received in the last six months. Answer each question thinking about yourself. Please take the time to complete this survey. Your answers are very important to us.***  
***Please return the survey with your answers in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to Wilkerson & Associates.***

- ◆ Answer all the questions by putting an “X” in the box to the left of your answer, like this:  
☒ Yes
- ◆ Be sure to read all the answer choices given before marking your answer.
- ◆ You are sometimes told not to answer some questions in this survey. When this happens you will see an arrow with a note that tells you what question to answer next, like this: [ → **If No, Go to Question 3** ]. See the examples below:

### EXAMPLE

#### 1. Do you wear a hearing aid now?

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No → **If No, Go to Question 3**

#### 2. How long have you been wearing a hearing aid?

- ☐ Less than one year  
☐ 1 to 3 years  
☐ More than 3 years  
☐ I don't wear a hearing aid

#### 3. In the last 6 months, did you have any headaches?

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

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According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is **0938-0732**. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average **20 minutes** per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

## YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Our records show that you are now in Medicare, the health insurance program for people 65 years old and older or persons with certain disabilities.

Please answer the questions in this survey as fully as possible regardless of whether or not you consider yourself on Medicare.

1. Some people who have Medicare also have other insurance to help pay for some of the costs of their health care. Do you have any other insurance that pays at least some of the cost of your health care?

☐ Yes

☐ No → If No, Go to Question 3

2. Please mark the box below for each type of health insurance that you have.

☐ Medigap, which may be identified on the front of your policy as “Medicare Supplemental Insurance”

☐ Employer, Union, or Retiree Health Coverage (insurance)

☐ Veteran’s Benefits, also known as VA benefits

☐ Military Retiree Benefits, also known as Tricare

☐ Medicaid, also known as State medical assistance, which is for some persons with limited income and resources

☐ Any Prescription Drug Plan

☐ Other (Please write the name of the other health insurance you currently have on the line below.)

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☐ I don’t have health insurance other than Medicare.

## YOUR HEALTH CARE IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS

These questions ask about your own health care. Do not include care you got when you stayed overnight in a hospital. Do not include the times you went for dental care visits.

3. In the last 6 months, did you have an illness, injury, or condition that needed care right away in a clinic, emergency room, or doctor’s office?

☐ Yes

☐ No → If No, Go to Question 5

4. In the last 6 months, when you needed care right away, how often did you get care as soon as you thought you needed?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Always

5. In the last 6 months, not counting the times you needed care right away, did you make any appointments for your health care at a doctor's office or clinic?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → If No, Go to Question 7

6. In the last 6 months, not counting the times you needed care right away, how often did you get an appointment for your health care at a doctor's office or clinic as soon as you thought you needed?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Always

7. In the last 6 months, not counting the times you went to an emergency room, how many times did you go to a doctor's office or clinic to get health care for yourself?

- ☐ None → If None, Go to Question 10 on Page 6
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5 to 9
- ☐ 10 or more

8. Wait time includes time spent in the waiting room and exam room. In the last 6 months, how often did you see the person you came to see within 15 minutes of your appointment time?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Always

9. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst health care possible and 10 is the best health care possible, what number would you use to rate all your health care in the last 6 months?

- ☐ 0 Worst health care possible
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10 Best health care possible

10. In the last 6 months, did you have a health problem for which you needed special medical equipment, such as a cane, a wheelchair, oxygen equipment, or diabetic supplies and equipment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → If No, Go to Question 12

11. In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get the medical equipment you needed through Medicare?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Always

12. In the last 6 months, did you have any health problems that needed special therapy, such as physical, occupational, or speech therapy?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → If No, Go to Question 14

13. In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get the special therapy you needed through Medicare?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Always

## YOUR PERSONAL DOCTOR

**14. A personal doctor is the one you would see if you need a check-up, want advice about a health problem, or get sick or hurt. Do you have a personal doctor?**

☐ Yes

☐ No → **If No, Go to Question 21 on Page 8**

**15. In the last 6 months, how many times did you visit your personal doctor to get care for yourself?**

☐ None → **If None, Go to**

☐ 1 **Question 21 on Page 8**

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

☐ 5 to 9

☐ 10 or more

**16. In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor explain things in a way that was easy to understand?**

☐ Never

☐ Sometimes

☐ Usually

☐ Always

**17. In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor listen carefully to you?**

☐ Never

☐ Sometimes

☐ Usually

☐ Always

**18. In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor show respect for what you had to say?**

☐ Never

☐ Sometimes

☐ Usually

☐ Always

**19. In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor spend enough time with you?**

☐ Never

☐ Sometimes

☐ Usually

☐ Always

20. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst personal doctor possible and 10 is the best personal doctor possible, what number would you use to rate your personal doctor?

- ☐ 0 Worst personal doctor possible
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10 Best personal doctor possible

### GETTING HEALTH CARE FROM SPECIALISTS

When you answer the next questions, do not include dental visits or care you got when you stayed overnight in a hospital.

21. Specialists are doctors like surgeons, heart doctors, allergy doctors, skin doctors, and other doctors who specialize in one area of health care. In the last 6 months, did you try to make any appointments to see a specialist?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → If No, Go to Question 25

22. In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get appointments with specialists?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Always

23. How many specialists have you seen in the last 6 months?

- ☐ None → If None, Go to Question 25
- ☐ 1 specialist
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5 or more specialists



24. We want to know your rating of the specialist you saw most often in the last 6 months. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst specialist possible and 10 is the best specialist possible, what number would you use to rate that specialist?

- ☐ 0 Worst specialist possible
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10 Best specialist possible

### MEDICARE EXPERIENCE

The next questions ask about your experience with Medicare.

25. In the last 6 months, did you try to get any kind of care, tests, or treatment through Medicare?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → If No, Go to Question 27

26. In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get the care, tests, or treatment you thought you needed through Medicare?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Always

27. In the last 6 months, did you try to get information or help from Medicare's customer service?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → If No, Go to Question 30 on Page 10

28. In the last 6 months, how often did Medicare's customer service give you the information or help you needed?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Always

29. In the last 6 months, how often did Medicare's customer service staff treat you with courtesy and respect?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Always

30. In the last 6 months, did Medicare give you any forms to fill out?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No → If No, Go to Question 32

31. In the last 6 months, how often were the forms from Medicare easy to fill out?

- ☐ Never  
☐ Sometimes  
☐ Usually  
☐ Always

32. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst health plan possible and 10 is the best health plan possible, what number would you use to rate Medicare?

- ☐ 0 Worst health plan possible  
☐ 1  
☐ 2  
☐ 3  
☐ 4  
☐ 5  
☐ 6  
☐ 7  
☐ 8  
☐ 9  
☐ 10 Best health plan possible

## ABOUT YOU

33. In general, how would you rate your overall health?

- ☐ Excellent  
☐ Very good  
☐ Good  
☐ Fair  
☐ Poor

34. In general, how would you rate your overall mental health?

- ☐ Excellent  
☐ Very good  
☐ Good  
☐ Fair  
☐ Poor

35. Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by having little interest or pleasure in doing things?

- ☐ Not at all  
☐ Several days  
☐ More than half the days  
☐ Nearly every day

36. Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by feeling down, depressed, or hopeless?

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Several days
- ☐ More than half the days
- ☐ Nearly every day

37. In the past 12 months, have you seen a doctor or other health provider 3 or more times for the same condition or problem?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → If No, Go to Question 39

38. Is this a condition or problem that has lasted for at least 3 months?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

39. Do you now need or take medicine prescribed by a doctor?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → If No, Go to Question 42

40. Is this to treat a condition that has lasted for at least 3 months?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

41. How often do you take a list of all your prescribed medicines to your doctor visits?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Always
- ☐ I do not take any prescription medicines.

42. In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get the medicines your doctor prescribed?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Always
- ☐ My doctor did not prescribe any medicines for me in the last 6 months.

43. Do you have insurance that pays part or all of the cost of your prescription medicines?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

44. In the last 6 months, did you ever delay or not fill a prescription because you felt that you could not afford it?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ My doctor did not prescribe any medicines for me in the last 6 months.

45. How confident are you that you can identify when it is necessary for you to get medical care?

- ☐ Very confident
- ☐ Confident
- ☐ Somewhat confident
- ☐ Not at all confident

46. Because of any impairment or health problem, do you need the help of other persons with your personal care needs, such as eating, dressing, or getting around the house?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

47. Because of any impairment or health problem, do you need help with your routine needs, such as everyday household chores, doing necessary business, shopping, or getting around for other purposes?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

48. Do you have a physical or medical condition that seriously interferes with your independence, participation in the community, or quality of life?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

49. Has a doctor ever told you that you had any of the following conditions?

- |   | <u>Yes</u>               | <u>No</u>                |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. A heart attack?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Angina or coronary heart disease?                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. A stroke?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Cancer, <u>other than skin cancer</u> ?                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Emphysema, asthma or COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Any kind of diabetes or high blood sugar?                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

50. Have you had a flu shot since September 1, 2008?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Don't know

51. Have you ever had a pneumonia shot? This shot is usually given only once or twice in a person's lifetime and is different from the flu shot. It is also called the pneumococcal vaccine.

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Don't know

52. Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?

- ☐ Every day  
☐ Some days  
☐ Not at all  
☐ Don't know } Go to Question 54

53. In the last 6 months, on how many visits were you advised to quit smoking by a doctor or other health provider?

- ☐ None  
☐ At least one visit  
☐ I had no visits in the last 6 months.

54. What is your age?

- ☐ 18 to 24  
☐ 25 to 34  
☐ 35 to 44  
☐ 45 to 54  
☐ 55 to 64  
☐ 65 to 69  
☐ 70 to 74  
☐ 75 to 79  
☐ 80 to 84  
☐ 85 or older

■

**55. Are you male or female?**

- ☐ Male  
☐ Female

**56. What is the highest grade or level of school that you have completed?**

- ☐ 8th grade or less  
☐ Some high school, but did not graduate  
☐ High school graduate or GED  
☐ Some college or 2-year degree  
☐ 4-year college graduate  
☐ More than 4-year college degree

**57. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent?**

- ☐ Yes, Hispanic or Latino  
☐ No, not Hispanic or Latino

**58. What is your race? Please mark one or more.**

- ☐ White  
☐ Black or African-American  
☐ Asian  
☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander  
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

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**59. Did someone help you complete this survey?**

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No → **If No, Go to Question 61**

**60. How did that person help you? Please mark one or more.**

- ☐ Read the questions to me  
☐ Wrote down the answers I gave  
☐ Answered the questions for me  
☐ Translated the questions into my language  
☐ Helped in some other way  
**(Please print)**
- 

**61. Do you live alone?**

- ☐ Yes, I live alone  
☐ No, I live with others

Earlier in the survey you were asked to indicate whether you have any limitations in your activities. We are now going to ask a few additional questions in this area.

62. Because of a health or physical problem are you unable to do or have any difficulty doing the following activities? (Please mark one response for each activity.)

	I am unable to do this activity	Yes, I have difficulty	No, I do not have difficulty
a. Bathing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Dressing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Eating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Getting in or out of chairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Using the toilet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

63. The Medicare Program is trying to learn more about the health care or services provided to people with Medicare. May we contact you again about the health care services that you received?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

64. Please write your daytime telephone number below.

-

-

Area Code

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY.  
Please return your completed survey in the postage paid envelope to:  
**Medicare Satisfaction Survey**  
**PO Box 1800**  
**Manchester, CT 06045-9989**

