Welcome to the *Medicare Enrollment and STRS Ohio* webinar.

All STRS Ohio medical plan participants are required to enroll in Medicare at age 65 or when eligible. Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people age 65 and older, some people with disabilities under age 65 and people with end-stage renal disease. This webinar will explain the parts of Medicare as well as the steps you need to take to become enrolled.
Today we are going to cover the five main steps for Medicare enrollment:

- Relax.
- Sign up.
- Provide STRS Ohio proof of enrollment.
- Pay Medicare.
- Select an STRS Ohio medical plan.

After we’ve reviewed these simple steps in more detail, we will address some questions commonly asked by new Medicare enrollees.
Step one: Relax! You are not in this alone.

STRS Ohio will mail you a Medicare information packet three months before you turn age 65.

The enrollment process does not require any special assistance or an STRS Ohio appointment. You sign up, provide proof of enrollment to STRS Ohio and pay your Medicare Part B premiums.
Step two: Sign up.

You have a seven-month window surrounding your birthday month to enroll. This period begins three months before you turn age 65, includes the month you turn age 65 and ends three months after the month of your birthday. To avoid a delay in the start of your Medicare coverage, we recommend you start the enrollment process before your 65th birthday.

You can enroll at your local Social Security office or by calling Social Security. Call the number shown here to locate the nearest office and to find out what documents to take with you.

You may also have the option to enroll online at www.ssa.gov.
To maintain eligibility for STRS Ohio medical coverage, you must enroll in Medicare. You will need to enroll in Medicare Part B and pay a monthly premium to Medicare. You will also need to sign up for Medicare Part A if it is available at no cost to you. If you decline Medicare coverage, you will not be eligible for an STRS Ohio medical plan. If you do not qualify initially for premium-free Part A, but become eligible at a later date, you must apply at that time. Keep in mind, you do not need to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits to be eligible for Medicare.
Now, let’s talk about the parts of Medicare.

Medicare Part A is hospital insurance. Most U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 65 or older qualify for premium-free Part A based on their own employment history or their current or former spouse’s employment history.

You are eligible if you paid Medicare taxes for at least 10 years while working in a federal, state or local government job (including public education). This applies to most STRS Ohio members.

You also qualify if you receive Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits or you are eligible to receive these benefits but haven’t filed for them yet.
If you do not qualify for premium-free Medicare Part A based on your own employment history, you may qualify based on your current or former spouse’s work history if:

- You are currently married for at least one year and your spouse is age 62 or older.
- You are divorced and currently single, and you were married for at least 10 years.
- You are widowed and currently single, and you were married for at least nine months before your spouse died.

Keep in mind, your spouse does not need to apply for Social Security benefits for you to be eligible for premium-free Part A based on his or her employment history. It may be helpful to inform Social Security that you are applying for Part A based on a current or former spouse’s work record.

If Social Security determines you do not qualify for Part A at no cost — you do not need to enroll. Your STRS Ohio medical plan will cover your hospitalization.
Medicare Part B is medical insurance and enrollment is mandatory when you are eligible. Everyone pays a premium for it. Almost every U.S. citizen, or legal resident in the United States for at least five years, who is age 65 or older can enroll.

Social Security knows your Medicare status and if you are already receiving a Social Security benefit, you will automatically be enrolled in Medicare. If you do not currently receive a Social Security benefit, you will need to go online, call or visit a Social Security office to sign up. Remember, you do not need to be eligible for Social Security to sign up for Medicare.
What about Medicare Parts C and D?

Part C is a type of health insurance plan approved by Medicare and administered by private companies. You may be more familiar with the term Medicare Advantage Plan. STRS Ohio offers three Medicare Advantage Plans — the Aetna Medicare Plan, AultCare PrimeTime Health Plan and the Paramount Elite HMO. Do not enroll in any other Medicare Advantage plan if you want to keep your coverage under STRS Ohio.

Part D is the prescription drug plan. As a Medicare enrollee, the prescription drug plan already included in your STRS Ohio coverage is a Part D plan. You are not permitted to be enrolled in more than one. Enrollment in any other Part D plan will cancel your STRS Ohio medical and prescription drug coverage.
Step 3: Provide proof of Medicare enrollment to STRS Ohio.

Do this immediately upon receiving your Medicare card. A delay in completing this step affects your eligibility for STRS Ohio medical plans for Medicare enrollees.

The fastest way to provide proof of enrollment is at www.strsoh.org through your Online Personal Account.

You can also send STRS Ohio a copy of your Medicare card with your STRS Ohio account number noted. (Your account number is needed to match your Medicare information to your STRS Ohio account.)

If you do not submit proof, you will not be eligible for STRS Ohio health care coverage.
Step four: Pay your Medicare premium.

The Part B standard rate for 2020 is $144.60 per month and is paid to Medicare, not STRS Ohio. This premium must be paid to maintain coverage. If you lose Part B coverage, you will not be eligible for an STRS Ohio medical plan.

Medicare will deduct the payment from your Social Security check, if you receive one, or you may have the payment deducted from your savings or checking if you enroll in the Medicare Easy Pay. Otherwise, Medicare will bill you quarterly.

Some Medicare enrollees with a high annual income will be required to pay a surcharge. We will address this later in the presentation.
Step five: Select your STRS Ohio medical plan.

As a Medicare enrollee, you may be eligible for the Aetna Medicare Plan, Medical Mutual Basic Plan or a regional plan if available in your area.

If you are in the Medical Mutual or Aetna Basic Plan prior to turning age 65, you will be enrolled in the Aetna Medicare Plan after STRS Ohio receives proof of your Medicare enrollment and Medicare approves your Aetna enrollment request.

If you do not want to be enrolled in the Aetna Medicare Plan, you must request the Medical Mutual Basic Plan (or a regional plan if available) when you submit proof of Medicare enrollment.
If you are a Paramount Health Care enrollee, you will be enrolled in Paramount Elite after STRS Ohio receives proof of your Medicare enrollment and Medicare approves your enrollment request.

If you do not want Paramount Elite, you must submit your request to be enrolled in the Aetna Medicare Plan or Medical Mutual Basic Plan when you submit proof of Medicare enrollment to STRS Ohio.
If you are in AultCare, the plan you are enrolled in as a Medicare enrollee will depend on which parts of Medicare you have.

If you are an AultCare enrollee with Medicare Parts A & B, you will be enrolled in AultCare PrimeTime Health Plan after STRS Ohio receives proof of Medicare enrollment and Medicare approves your enrollment request.

If you are an AultCare enrollee with Medicare Part B-only, you will remain in that plan. In other words, if you do not qualify for premium-free Part A, you will be enrolled in the AultCare PPO plan for Medicare enrollees.

If you do not want either of these plans, you must submit your request to be enrolled in the Aetna Medicare Plan or Medical Mutual Basic Plan when you submit proof of Medicare enrollment to STRS Ohio.
What about Basic Plan family accounts with Medicare and non-Medicare enrollees?

STRS Ohio allows families with Medicare and non-Medicare enrollees to select separate plans. All family members with Medicare may enroll in the Aetna Medicare Plan while non-Medicare family members remain in the Basic Plan.

If the Aetna Medicare Plan is not selected, enrollment in separate plans is not permitted. In this case, all family members would need to choose either the Basic Plan or a regional plan if available.

Be aware, coverage features under the same plan could differ based on Medicare status. Be sure to review the plan features for Medicare and non-Medicare enrollees.
Under the regional plans – AultCare and Paramount – family accounts with Medicare and non-Medicare enrollees must choose a plan offered by the same plan administrator.

For AultCare, non-Medicare enrollees would be enrolled in the AultCare PPO for non-Medicare enrollees. Medicare enrollees with Parts A & B would be enrolled in AultCare PrimeTime Health Plan while those with Part B-only would be enrolled in AultCare PPO for Medicare enrollees.

For Paramount, non-Medicare enrollees would be enrolled in Paramount Health Care while Medicare enrollees would be enrolled in Paramount Elite.
After you sign up for Medicare and provide proof of enrollment to STRS Ohio, your monthly STRS Ohio premiums will decrease.

This table shows the 2020 monthly medical plan premium for a benefit recipient with 30 years of service and the rate for a spouse.

Remember, to remain eligible for a medical plan available to Medicare enrollees, you must maintain and pay your Medicare Part B premiums, as well as enroll in Part A if it is at no cost to you. A complete table of 2020 premiums is available on the STRS Ohio website.
Let’s take a look at some of the more common questions about Medicare enrollment.
What happens if I don’t sign up for Medicare?

If you do not sign up at the appropriate time, Medicare will charge you a penalty. For Part B, there is a 10% late enrollment penalty added to your monthly premium for each year you delay enrollment.

If you go 63 days or more without Part D or creditable prescription drug coverage and later enroll in a plan, there is a penalty for letting your drug coverage lapse. If you have one of the STRS Ohio health care plans, you have a creditable Part D plan. (Creditable coverage means prescription drug coverage that is as good or better than the standard Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.)

Late enrollment penalties for Part B or Part D, if incurred by you, will be charged for as long as you have Medicare coverage.
What if I am still employed at age 65?

While you are working and receiving health care coverage through your employer, you do not need to sign up for Part B. Sign up within eight months of employer health coverage or employment ending, whichever comes first. You will not be subject to a Part B late enrollment penalty if you sign up during this special enrollment period.

If you miss that special enrollment period, general enrollment guidelines will apply as will the late enrollment penalty. General enrollment is January 1 through March 31 and your coverage would not begin until July 1 of that year.
What are surcharges?

Part B and Part D enrollees with higher annual incomes are subject to monthly Medicare surcharges. The 2020 amount is based on 2018 income. Surcharges vary by income levels set by Medicare (currently $87,000 or more for individuals and $174,000 or more for married couples). Please note: If you were married, filed your 2018 tax return as married filing separately and made more than $87,000, you will incur the highest surcharges.

Individuals subject to Medicare surcharges will receive a letter from Social Security referencing the income-related monthly adjustment amount, also known as “IRMAA.”

Your drug plan with STRS Ohio is a Part D plan that is bundled with your medical coverage. You do not pay a separate amount for drug coverage as some people do. Nonetheless, Medicare assesses this surcharge to you anyway since you do have a Part D plan.

If you are subject to the Part B surcharge, you will also pay a surcharge for Part D. For more information, including surcharge amounts, go to www.ssa.gov or medicare.gov.
What if I am not eligible for premium-free Part A?

We touched on this earlier, but it is something that bears repeating. All STRS Ohio medical plans cover hospitalization.

Do not enroll in Part A if you will be required to pay a premium.

Without Part A, you still have the same coverage and rates as other STRS Ohio Health Care Program enrollees.

If you do not initially qualify for premium-free Part A, but become eligible at a later date, you must apply at that time.
What is the Part B premium reimbursement?

Service retirement and disability benefit recipients who are enrolled in Part B and an STRS Ohio medical plan are eligible to receive a partial Part B premium reimbursement of $29.90. This reimbursement is on the Part B standard monthly premium charged by Medicare and is added to your monthly benefit payment starting after Medicare enrollment is confirmed. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will discontinue effective January 1, 2021.

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<th>What Is the Part B Premium Reimbursement?</th>
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<td>• Partial reimbursement from STRS Ohio on standard Part B monthly premium</td>
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<td>• Part B enrollment required</td>
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<td>• Service retirement and disability benefit recipients who are medical plan enrollees</td>
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<td>• 2020: $29.90 monthly for all eligible enrollees</td>
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What are the key similarities among the medical plans STRS Ohio offers to Medicare enrollees?

Key similarities among all of the plans are as follows:

- Once you have met the out-of-pocket maximum, all covered expenses are paid at 100% for the remainder of the year.
- The lifetime benefits maximum per enrollee is unlimited.
- There is no cost for designated preventive services.
- The emergency room copayment is waived if you are admitted.
- The prescription drug coverage deductible, copayments, coinsurance and maximum annual expense is the same under each plan for Medicare enrollees.

Information about specific plan coverage features is available in the *STRS Ohio Health Care Program Guide* which is available on our website and also included in your Medicare information packet.
How should I evaluate health care coverage options?

It is important to understand the differences in medical plan costs and features.

For instance, the monthly premium the plan charges may be low, but the deductible and out-of-pocket maximum may be high.

What does the out-of-pocket maximum amount include? Some plans may include the deductible in that maximum while other plans may not.

Are your favorite doctors and medical facilities within the provider network?

What is the prescription drug coverage offered by the plan?

And, what are your anticipated health care needs for the coming year and the projected costs for those services?

Knowing this information puts you in a better position to make an apples to apples comparison of health care plans and hopefully prevents any surprises when medical bills arrive.
Are there alternatives to STRS Ohio coverage? Yes.

There are a number of individual Medicare Advantage plan options offered in the general marketplace. These plans may be more cost effective for spouses and STRS Ohio benefit recipients receiving limited or no premium subsidies.

Medicare Advantage plans in the general marketplace require that you be enrolled in Medicare Parts A & B. They may offer better options if you are agreeable to a limited network. Many offer extra benefits such as dental care and eyeglasses, but not all of them include prescription drug coverage. Medicare requires all eligible recipients to enroll in a Part D prescription drug plan.
There are also Medicare Supplement Insurance policies — also referred to as Medigap. These require that you be enrolled in Medicare Parts A & B and the plan pays for health care costs remaining after Original Medicare pays. All of these types of policies offer the same basic benefits. Enrollment may be limited or could be more costly if you enroll after age 65.
We conclude our agenda here with a recap of the five easy steps for Medicare enrollment.

- Relax.
- Sign up.
- Provide STRS Ohio proof of enrollment.
- Pay Medicare.
- Select an STRS Ohio medical plan.
You can obtain STRS Ohio medical plan information on our website or by calling STRS Ohio. For Medicare information, go to www.medicare.gov or www.insurance.ohio.gov or call the numbers shown here.

We hope this webinar has been helpful in understanding the Medicare enrollment process. Thank you for your attention.