

# A GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR CAREGIVERS

## Medicare Billing Terms Caregivers Should Know

**Deductible** is the amount the patient pays for health care or prescriptions before Medicare, a prescription drug plan, or other insurance begins to pay.

**Premium** is the periodic payment for coverage to Medicare, an insurance company, or a health care plan for health or prescription drug coverage. People who paid Medicare taxes while they were working usually do not pay a premium for Part A. Most people pay a Part B premium each month.

**Coinsurance** is the amount a patient may be required to pay as their share of the cost for services after paying any deductible. Coinsurance is usually a percentage (for example, 20%).

**Copayment** is the amount a patient may be required to pay as their share of the cost for a medical service or supply, like a prescription, doctor's visit, or hospital outpatient visit. A copayment is usually a set amount, rather than a percentage. For example, a patient might pay \$10 or \$20 for a doctor's visit or prescription.

**Medicare Summary Notice (MSN)** is a notice patients receive after a physician or provider files a claim for services covered by Medicare Part A or B. The statement explains the charges that will be paid by Medicare and those that will be paid by the patient. (It is the one labeled 'This is Not a Bill.')

**Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN)** is a notice a provider gives a Medicare patient warning that some services may not be covered. It is not an official denial of coverage, only a tool for forecasting expenses. Visit [www.medicare.gov/publications](http://www.medicare.gov/publications) and view or print "Your Medicare Rights and Protections" to learn more.

**Social Security and Health Care Costs.** Social Security recipients automatically get Part B coverage when they turn 65. Social Security may offer help for Part D premiums, which can also be deducted from Social Security payments. The program also pays Supplemental Security Income benefits to individuals with limited income who are disabled, blind, or age 65 or older. For details, visit [www.medicare.gov/publications](http://www.medicare.gov/publications) to view or print the "Medicare & You" handbook.

**Appeals** can be made by people who disagree with payment decisions made by Medicare or their health plan. Learn more on pages 86-91 of the "Medicare & You" handbook available at [www.medicare.gov/publications](http://www.medicare.gov/publications).

*Ask Medicare* ([www.medicare.gov/caregivers](http://www.medicare.gov/caregivers)) also offers information on enrolling in Medicare, choosing a prescription drug plan, finding state and local resources to support caregiving tasks, accessing in-home services, and a free e-newsletter with the latest Medicare updates.