



Area Agency on Aging, PSA 2

Caregiving Series

PAYING FOR CARE

*Mother keeps up with her bills from month to month,
but there is not much left to pay for home care or a stay in a nursing home.*

One of the first questions families face is "How can we pay for the care our loved one needs?" A hospital stay, extensive home care, or even a short stay in a nursing home, can quickly deplete one's savings. Most families can't afford to pay privately for an extensive period of time, and need to explore their options.

MEDICARE

Many families mistakenly think Medicare will take care of everything; however coverage is limited and requires an annual deductible and co-payments. Medicare is for people age 65 or older, people under age 65 with certain disabilities, and people with end-stage renal disease.

Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) helps cover inpatient care in hospitals and skilled nursing facilities (not custodial or long-term care), and some home health care, but coverage is very limited.

Medicare Part B (medical insurance) helps cover doctors' services and outpatient hospital care. It also covers some of the other medical services that Part A doesn't cover. There is a Medicare Part B monthly premium and new premium rates become effective in January of each year. There is a penalty for late enrollment.

Medicare Part D (prescription drug benefit) helps with the cost of generic and brand name prescription drugs covered in your chosen drug plan. Private companies provide the coverage, and drug plan costs and coverage vary, but must meet a minimum Medicare requirement. There is a monthly premium, annual deductible, and co-pay; but extra help with these costs is available through the Social Security Administration for those with limited income and resources. There is a penalty for late enrollment unless you had drug coverage at least as good as Medicare during that time period.

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to get answers and information 24 hours a day, including weekends; or visit www.medicare.gov.

MEDICAID

Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that helps with medical costs for some people with low income and limited resources. Almost all of an eligible person's health-care costs are covered, including home health care. Those also eligible for Medicare will have prescription drug coverage under Part D. Contact the local County Department of Job & Family Services to apply for Medicaid. Call The Medicaid Consumer Hotline at 1-800-324-8680, or visit www.hcfa.gov/medicaid for more information.

PASSPORT

PASSPORT is a statewide program that includes a range of in-home and community services for eligible individuals age 60 and over. PASSPORT enables them to remain in their own home instead of entering a nursing home. Modified Medicaid eligibility guidelines apply. Contact the Area Agency on Aging for more information.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

A variety of support services to help older Ohioans are provided in local communities, from home-delivered meals, to adult day programs and home care. Contact the Area Agency on Aging to get more information on the support programs available in your county.

MEDIGAP INSURANCE

Medigap is private insurance that pays part of the cost of premiums, co-payments, and deductibles not covered by Medicare. Medigap insurance is not needed if someone is enrolled in a health plan that includes the same benefits. Visit www.ohioinsurance.gov for information, or call 1-800-686-1578.

LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE

Private insurance companies sell long term care insurance policies. The cost varies according to the amount and type of care covered and the age of the buyer. Debilitating illness or advanced age may disqualify a person. To request a copy of *A Shopper's Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance*, contact: National Association of Insurance Commissioners, 120 West 12th Street, Suite 1100, Kansas City, MO, 64105-1925, 1-816-842-3600, fax 816-460-7593.

TALKING ABOUT FINANCES

Caregivers often find money is the most difficult subject to bring up with their loved ones. You may break the ice by discussing how you are planning to meet your own needs. Involve your loved ones as you look into the range of services and options that are available. Don't wait until you are facing a crisis to become informed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.benefitscheckup.org: Complete a short questionnaire on BenefitsCheckup to connect to government programs that help pay for prescription drugs & health care.

www.ohioinsurance.gov/consumerserv/oshiip: The Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) provides information to people in Ohio covered by Medicare, regardless of age.

www.va.gov: Veterans Administration benefits

Medicare Hotline: 1-800-633-4227

Ohio Consumer Hotline (Medicaid Questions): 1-800-324-8680



*For more information or a list of titles in this series,
contact the **Area Agency on Aging, PSA 2.**
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