**Getting Ready for Medicare**
Here’s what you need to know if you’ll soon be eligible for Medicare.

+ Here are the most frequently asked questions about Medicare.

1. **What is Medicare?**
Medicare is the nation’s largest health insurance program. It’s funded by the United States government. It provides high-quality health-care to people 65 and over, and to people under 65 who have certain disabilities.

2. **When am I eligible for Medicare?**
For the most part, you are Medicare eligible if you:
   - Are age 65 or older
   - Are under 65 with certain disabilities
   - Have end-stage renal disease — permanent kidney failure treated with dialysis or a transplant — or ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig disease, regardless of your age

3. **When can I apply for Medicare?**
You can apply for Medicare:
   - Starting three months before your 65th birthday
   - The entire month of your 65th birthday
   - Ending three months after your 65th birthday
   - For a total enrollment period of seven months

4. **Where can I learn more about Medicare and my options?**
Find more information about what Medicare covers in *Medicare & You*. To get a copy:
   - Call Medicare toll-free at **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. Call TTY **1-877-486-2048** if you’re hearing impaired.
   - Check for publication number CMS-10050 on the Medicare website

**More ways to get help in understanding Medicare**

- **The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** is the Federal agency that runs the Medicare Program. If you need help, you can:
  - Call Medicare at **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. Or call TTY/TDD **1-877-486-2048** (24 hours a day/7 days a week)
  - Visit the Medicare website.

- **The Social Security Administration**
For questions about Medicare eligibility and Social Security retirement benefits:

- Contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213. Or call TTY/TDD 1-800-325-0778 (7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday - Friday).
- Visit the Social Security Administration website.