



Getting Medicare to Cover Your Drugs: Parts A, B or D?

Since the Medicare drug benefit began in 2006, many providers have been confused about which part of Medicare to bill for your prescription drugs. **Medicare has three major parts that each offer different benefits:**

- **Part A** pays for stays in the hospital and at skilled nursing facilities.
- **Part B** pays for outpatient medical services like doctor visits.
- **Part D** pays for general outpatient prescription drugs.

Note: **Part C** gives you the option of getting all of these benefits through a Medicare private health plan, such as an HMO or PPO.

Which part of the Medicare benefit will cover the drugs you need?

To answer this question, follow these general rules of thumb:

- **Part A** will cover the drugs you need during a Medicare-covered stay in a hospital or skilled nursing facility.

Note: If you are getting skilled nursing care that is **not** covered by the Part A benefit, your drugs will be covered by the Medicare drug benefit (Part D).

- **Part B** will cover drugs administered by your doctor or at a dialysis facility, but the doctor or facility has to buy the drugs themselves. Part B also covers a limited number of outpatient prescription drugs. **Outpatient drugs previously paid for by Part B before 2006 will continue to be paid for by Part B.** Part D (see below) cannot pay for any drugs that are covered by Part B.
- **Part D** covers **outpatient** drugs through Medicare private drug plans. Part D should cover prescriptions your doctor writes for you to fill at the drug store. Check to see if your Medicare private drug plan includes the drugs you need on its list of covered drugs (formulary).

While some drugs are covered **only** by Part B, **there are a few drugs that can be covered by either Part B or Part D depending on the circumstances.** Check the chart on the other side of this page for details.

Get information about your Medicare benefits at www.medicarerights.org



Drugs that May be Covered by Either Part B or Part D

Drug	Rules for Coverage Under Part B	Rules for Coverage Under Part D
Erythropoietin (Epoetin alpha or Epogen)	If you have end-stage renal disease and need this drug to treat anemia.	For any diagnosis other than end-stage renal disease.
Immunosuppressive drugs for transplant patients.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="607 512 1065 617">1. You were enrolled in Medicare Part A at the time of the transplant. <li data-bbox="607 659 1065 774">2. The transplant was conducted in a Medicare-certified facility. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1081 512 1471 617">1. You were not enrolled in Medicare Part A when you got the transplant. <li data-bbox="1081 659 1471 774">2. The transplant was not conducted in a Medicare-certified facility.
Injectable drugs.	Your doctor must provide and administer these drugs to you.	You self-administer the drug unless there are safety concerns.
Some drugs used in infusion pumps such as insulin in an insulin pump for diabetics.	Drug is infused in the home.	Drug is infused in a skilled nursing facility when your stay is not being covered by Part A. (Part D will cover drugs that do not use infusion pumps.)
Drugs administered through an infusion/durable medical equipment supplier (parenteral nutrition).	Used to treat non-functioning digestive tract.	Used for treatments other than for a non-functioning digestive tract.
Infusions to administer intravenous immune globulin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="607 1352 1065 1425">1. Treatment used for diagnosis of immune deficiency disease. <li data-bbox="607 1457 1065 1499">2. Administered at home. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1081 1352 1463 1457">1. Treatment for a diagnosis other than immune deficiency disease. <li data-bbox="1081 1457 1463 1499">2. Administered at home.
Oral anti-nausea drugs (also called anti-emetics) as a full therapeutic replacement for intravenous drugs that prevent nausea caused by cancer drugs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="607 1551 1057 1625">1. You must already be receiving Part B-covered oral cancer drugs. <li data-bbox="607 1698 1057 1772">2. You must take the drugs within 48 hours of the oral cancer drugs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1081 1551 1471 1656">1. You use the drug more than 48 hours after receiving oral cancer drugs; or <li data-bbox="1081 1698 1471 1772">2. You use the drug for other conditions.
Inhalation medications.	Used with durable medical equipment (nebulizer).	Used with a nebulizer in a skilled nursing facility or at home without a nebulizer.