



Real Life Series:  
Social Security, Medicare, and your Retirement

# Social Security, Medicare, and Your Retirement



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*To discuss your personal financial needs, please contact:*

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# Handout 1

## Facts About Medicare

### **Medicare Part A**

*Medicare Part A hospital insurance helps pay for:*

- Hospital stays
- Skilled nursing facility
- Hospice care
- Some home health care

### **Medicare Part B**

*Part B medical insurance is intended to cover a portion of some basic medical services and to help pay for treatment both in and out of the hospital. It helps pay for:*

- Doctors' services (except routine physical examinations)
- Outpatient hospital services
- Some home health care
- Durable medical equipment

### **Medicare Advantage, or Medicare Part C**

*Optional managed care coverage in addition to original Medicare.*

### **Medicare & The Affordable Care Act**

You may be wondering how the Affordable Care Act of 2010 will affect Medicare? The law includes a number of provisions that affect Medicare, including:

- Enhanced benefits (free prevention services and phasing out the Part D coverage gap),
- Spending reductions affecting plans and providers,
- Delivery system reforms,
- Premium increases for higher-income beneficiaries, and
- A payroll tax on earnings for higher-income people.

**To learn more about how Medicare is affected by the Affordable Care Act, visit the Medicare website at [Medicare.gov](http://Medicare.gov).**

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## Handout 2

# Information Sources

There are many sources of information available to help you keep up-to-date with the Social Security and Medicare programs.

### **Websites**

[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) is the Social Security Administration's Web site. It provides online access to numerous documents. You can also request a personal Social Security Statement through this site.

[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) is Medicare's Web site. It contains current benefit information, reports, and access to additional publications.

### **Telephone Assistance**

For Social Security, call (800) 772-1213.

You can also call the nationwide toll-free Medicare hotline at (800) 633-4227.

### **Publications**

Social Security and Medicare both offer a variety of publications that explain their respective programs in detail. You can review the publication titles on the Web sites or call for more information.