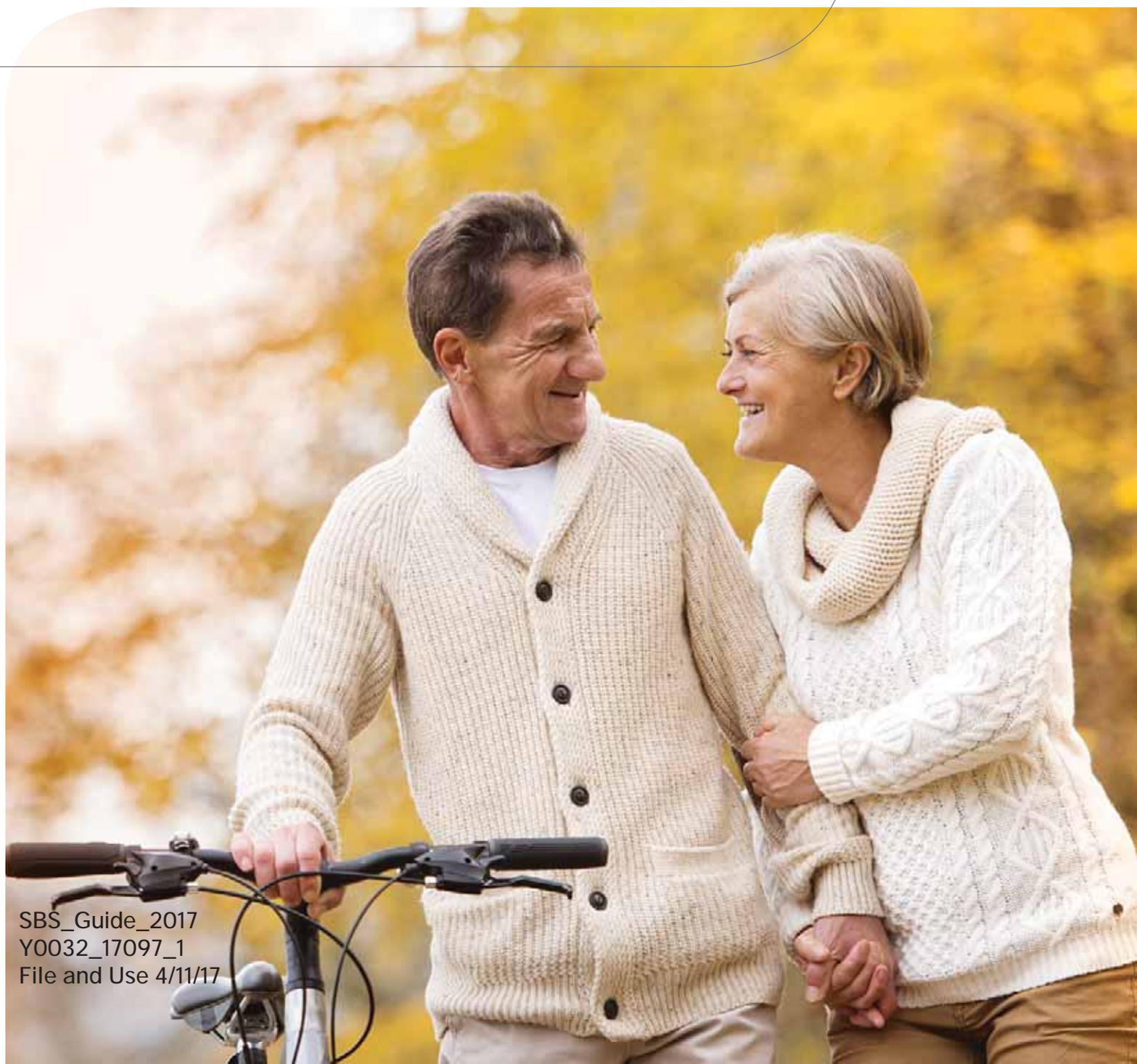


Geisinger

Gold

Your Step-by-Step Guide to Medicare



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Your journey to Medicare begins now

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Time to start making plans.

If you're within 90 days of your 65th birthday, you'll be eligible for Medicare soon. It's time to look at your healthcare coverage options.

This guide provides step-by-step assistance to ensure you get the most from Medicare health coverage.

If you have any questions, please call us toll-free at 800-505-8285 (TTY: 711). We are available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week from October 1 - February 14 or Monday - Friday from February 15 - September 30.

We know our way around Medicare and can help you get where you want to be.



Four steps to choosing a Medicare plan

As you get close to age 65, it's important to start exploring your Medicare options. But you have a lot to consider ... and a lot of choices to make. This Guide is a good place to start.

Step 1: Get to know Medicare

There are four parts of Medicare. Key to getting the coverage that's right for you is knowing what they are ... and how they work.

Step 2: Get ready to enroll

There are specific times when you can enroll in Medicare. It's important that you understand how these Enrollment Periods work. If you miss them, you may be charged a penalty ... or risk being uninsured for many months.

Step 3: Get the facts about Medicare Advantage plans

A Medicare Advantage Plan, or Medicare Part C, is an alternative to original Medicare. It covers original Medicare and, often, provides additional benefits too ... sometimes at a lower cost.

Step 4: Get the most from Medicare Part D

Medicare Part D covers prescription drugs. With the high cost of medications today, it's important to understand just how this benefit works ... and the options available to you.

When & how to enroll in Medicare

You do not have to be retired to get Medicare.

The retirement age for full Social Security benefits, called “Full Retirement Age,” is slowly rising to age 67, but you can still get full Medicare benefits at age 65, even if you’re not going to collect Social Security benefits.

If you aren’t collecting Social Security or Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) benefits because you are still working, you may sign up for Medicare by enrolling online through Medicare.gov or by contacting your local Social Security office or Railroad Retirement Board.

If you are retired and signed up for Social Security or Railroad Retirement Benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance) beginning the first day of the month in which you turn 65.

Birth year	Full Retirement Age
1940	65 & 6 months
1941	65 & 8 months
1942	65 & 10 months
1943 - 1954	66
1955	66 & 2 months
1956	66 & 4 months
1957	66 & 6 months
1958	66 & 8 months
1959	66 & 10 months
1960 or later	67

*If born on January 1, refer to previous year



If your 65th birthday is on the first day of the month, Parts A & B will start the first day of the prior month. You will receive your Medicare card and detailed information in the mail approximately three months prior to your birth month.

Happy 65th birthday!

Your initial window for enrolling in Original Medicare, Part A and Part B, is seven months long: the three months before the month you turn 65, the month you turn 65, and the three months after your 65th birthday. You can enroll in Parts A and B by contacting Social Security or the Railroad Retirement Board.

If you don't sign up for Part A or Part B when you're first eligible, you can sign up during the General Enrollment Period (GEP) between January 1 and March 31 each year. If you sign up during GEP, your coverage will start on July 1 of that year.

If you're covered under an Employer Group Health Plan (EGHP) at the time you are first eligible for Medicare, you will have an 8-month Special Enrollment Period that starts either the month after employment ends or the month after your EGHP ends — whichever occurs first.

Medicare Advantage (Part C) and prescription drug coverage (Part D) also follow the 7-month window around your 65th birthday, known as your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP). If you work past the age of 65, your IEP will start upon retirement.

**A Geisinger Gold Medicare Advisor
is available to assist you at any time throughout
your enrollment process.
(See page 15 for contact information.)**



Medicare coverage options

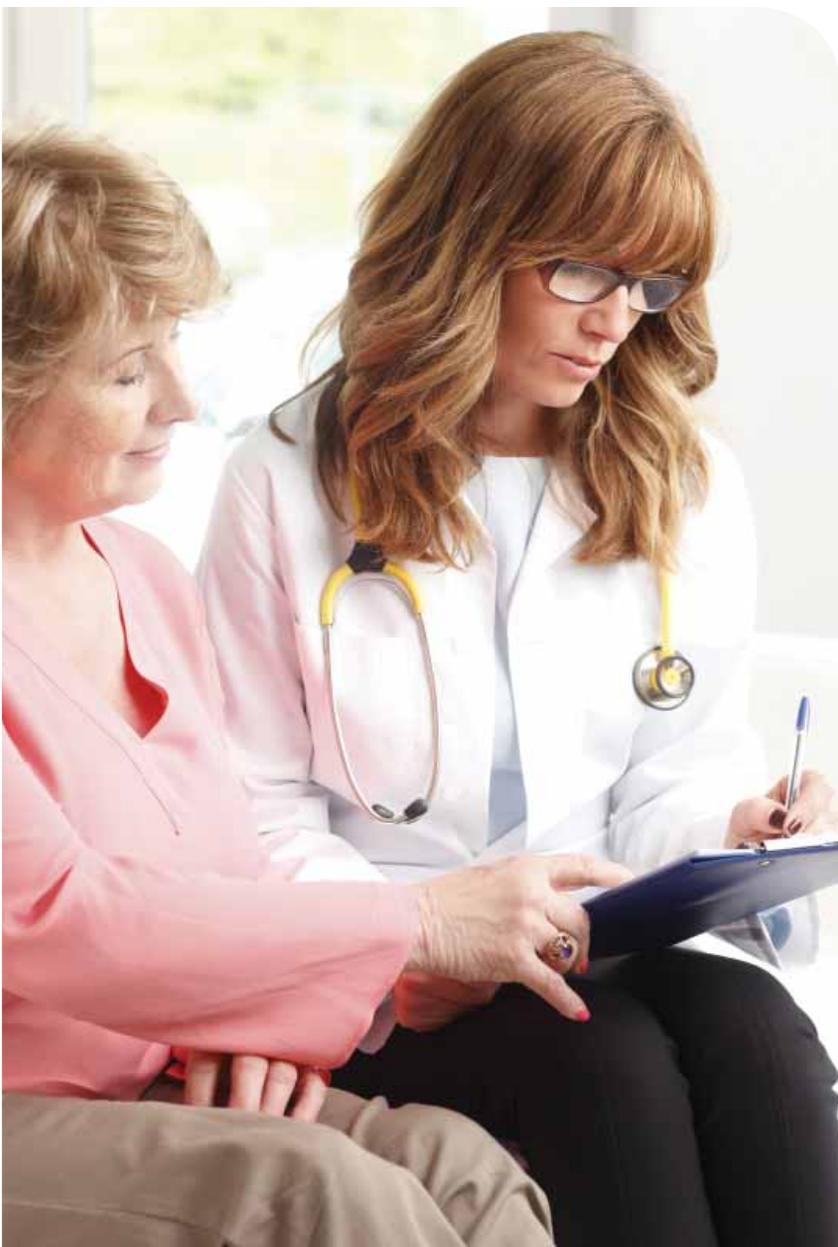
Choosing the right healthcare coverage is an important personal decision. There is no “one size fits all” plan. Considerations include:

- your overall health
- what prescription drugs you take
- current or potential chronic conditions
- the need for coverage while traveling or time away from your permanent home.

Part A does not have a monthly premium; however, if you have less than 10 years of paying Social Security taxes, you will have to pay a small premium. Part A helps pay for inpatient hospital insurance, covers skilled nursing facility care (only if hospitalized first), home health care if hospitalized and hospice care whether or not you have been hospitalized.

Part B has a monthly premium. Part B helps pay for outpatient services such as doctors’ fees, outpatient hospital visits, labs, X-rays, ambulance, preventive services, emergency room and urgent care, as well as other medical services and supplies not covered by Part A.

If you are delaying your retirement and have insurance with your employer, you can also delay enrollment in Part B, although it is recommended you enroll in premium-free Part A at age 65.



Don't count on Original Medicare to cover everything.

Original Medicare's costs can add up quickly if you have a medical condition that requires frequent care or a lengthy stay in a hospital or skilled nursing facility. Plus, it provides no benefits for many common healthcare services including:

- hearing aids
- routine hearing exams
- eyeglasses
- routine eye exams
- preventive dental care
- most prescription drugs
- fitness benefits
- worldwide emergency medical coverage

Medicare Advantage plans (Part C)

Medicare Advantage plans, also known as Medicare **Part C**, are overseen by Medicare but administered by private companies, such as Geisinger Gold. Medicare Advantage plans provide the same benefits as Original Medicare, but usually with lower costs plus additional services and benefits not covered by Original Medicare. Part C is available to all Medicare beneficiaries living within a plan's service area who have Medicare Parts A & B and do not have end-stage renal disease.

Medicare Advantage plans were created to give Medicare beneficiaries a new way of receiving benefits — offering many choices to find the right fit for your budget and lifestyle.

Prescription drug coverage (Part D)

Part D covers prescription drugs. Without Part D, any medications you may need could cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Coverage is available as a stand-alone prescription drug plan (PDP), or as a Medicare Advantage plan with prescription drug coverage (MAPD), but must be purchased through a government-sponsored private insurance company that contracts with Medicare, like Geisinger Gold. Part D coverage varies based on plan selection with different formularies (drug list) and options, including varying premiums, copays and coinsurance. To join a PDP or MAPD plan, you need to have Medicare Parts A and B and live in the service area of the plan.

It's important to enroll in Part D when you are first eligible even if you have little or no prescription drug costs. Similar to Part B, if you do not sign up in your initial eligibility period, the premium will increase for each month until you do enroll. Once you are enrolled, your premium won't increase with your age and you cannot be denied because of a pre-existing health condition, the number of medications you take or because of your income.





5 things to consider when choosing a Medicare plan

1. Doctors and hospitals

Not all plans let you choose your own doctors and medical facilities. If that's important to you, choose a plan that does.

2. Costs

That includes monthly premiums and out-of-pocket costs for deductibles and co-pays. See if there's an annual limit on these and other expenses.

3. Prescription drugs

Make sure the plan you choose covers the medications you need. Ask what pharmacies you can use.

4. Travel

See if your plan will cover you, if you travel to another state or outside the U.S.

5. Ratings

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rates Medicare plans on a five-star basis. The higher the rating, the more confident you can be in the plan you choose.

Timeline to 65

Follow these simple steps to prepare for Medicare if you are retired and approaching age 65.

9-12 Months Prior to 65

Contact the Social Security Administration to confirm your eligibility. If you had enrolled in Social Security benefits prior to age 65, you will automatically receive Medicare Parts A & B at 65. If you plan to delay claiming Social Security benefits, you're still eligible for full Medicare benefits, but will need to sign up for Original Medicare three months prior to turning 65.

6-8 Months Prior to 65

Check with your healthcare providers to see if they accept Medicare and start researching Medicare Advantage plans that best fit your lifestyle & budget.

Geisinger Gold offers more value than Original Medicare and can assist you every step of the way.



3 Months Prior to 65

If you previously signed up for Social Security benefits or Railroad Retirement benefits, you will receive your Initial Enrollment Package in the mail with your new Medicare card and a letter explaining your automatic enrollment in Medicare Parts A & B.

If you do not plan to enroll in Social Security benefits right away, or if you decide to wait until after you reach full retirement age, you can still sign up for Medicare three months before your 65th birthday to avoid potential delays or penalties.

Apply for a Geisinger Gold Medicare Advantage plan beginning three months before the month of your 65th birthday. Be sure you have your Medicare Parts A & B effective dates when enrolling. If you enroll during this time, your enrollment is effective the first day of the month you turn 65.

65 Happy Birthday!

Enjoy your special day! If you have yet to enroll in Original Medicare and a Medicare Advantage plan, you still have time! Remember, you can enroll anytime within the month of your 65th birthday and the three months after.

3 Months After 65

Don't delay any longer!

If you enroll in Part A and/or Part B the month you turn 65 or during the last three months of your Initial Enrollment Period, your start date will be delayed, up to three months after enrollment.

*Not every situation is all-inclusive and may not be covered in the above diagram. The best time to file for Social Security is a personal decision. Contact Social Security or Geisinger Gold for more information. (See pages 14 & 15 for contact information.)

Questions & Answers

Answers to frequently asked questions

Will I be notified when it's time to enroll in Medicare?

You won't receive a notice from the government when it's time to enroll. If you're already collecting Social Security benefits, you'll be signed up automatically before your 65th birthday. If not, it's up to you to sign up for Medicare.

When's the best time to sign up for benefits?

If you won't be insured by an employer, the best time to sign up is during your Initial Enrollment Period. That's the seven-month window that starts three months before your birthday month ... and ends three months after it.

Where can I turn for advice?

We are happy to help in all aspects of your Medicare planning. Our Customer Service Team phone number is in the back of this booklet.

What happens if I miss my initial enrollment deadline?

If you miss your Initial Enrollment Period, you must wait for a General Enrollment Period to enroll. That runs from January 1 to March 31 each year. If you sign up then, your coverage won't start until July 1. Plus, you may be charged a penalty for delaying your Part B enrollment.

Do I need Medicare Part B?

A good rule of thumb is to sign up for Medicare Part B when you turn 65 or stop working, whichever happens later. In order to enroll in a Medicare Advantage (Part C) plan, you will need Medicare Part B, along with Part A. If you do not enroll in Medicare Part B during your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP), you will need to wait for the general enrollment period (January 1- March 31 of each year) to enroll.

If you are still working and have insurance from a current employer with more than 20 employees, your employer's group health plan is the primary insurer. When you retire, you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) and can enroll in Part B without penalty. This SEP allows you to enroll in Part B at any time while you or your spouse are still working and for up to eight months after you lose your employer coverage or stop working.

If you are employed by a company with under 20 employees, you should enroll in Medicare Part B when first eligible as Medicare is the primary insurer.

How much does Medicare Part B cost?

Medicare Part B premium is determined annually by Medicare. For the most up-to-date cost, refer to the latest version of the "Medicare & You" handbook distributed yearly by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), or visit medicare.gov and search "Part B costs."

What happens to my younger spouse?

If your younger spouse is still working when you are 65 or older, you may be entitled to the health plan options offered through your spouse's employer.

Medicare does not provide dependent coverage. If your spouse is not employed and you are eligible for Medicare and plan to retire, consider:

- working until he/she becomes eligible for Medicare
- checking into continued coverage through your employer's retiree health benefits
- coverage options available through COBRA, up to 36 months
- purchase individual insurance coverage, such as plans available through Geisinger Marketplace. Visit GeisingerMarketplace.com or call 800-918-5154, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Monday - Friday) for more information.

Is help available to manage out-of-pocket costs after retirement?

Yes, you may be eligible for programs such as PACE or Low Income Subsidy (which help with prescription costs), or assistance from Medicare to help pay your Part B or Part D premium.

What if I retire before I am eligible for Medicare?

If your spouse is still employed, enroll in your spouse's employer-sponsored health plan. Check eligibility requirements to be sure you can enroll in your spouse's plan or:

- check with your employer for eligibility in retiree medical insurance. Although this coverage is not offered by many companies, it is worthwhile to inquire. Consider your eligibility requirements and premiums.
- coverage options available through COBRA, up to 18 months
- purchase individual insurance coverage, such as plans available through Geisinger Marketplace. Visit GeisingerMarketplace.com or call 800-918-5154, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Monday - Friday) for more information.

Where do I sign up for Medicare?

The Social Security Administration handles Medicare enrollment. If you won't automatically receive benefits, you can enroll by calling 800-772-1213 or 800-325-0788 (TTY) ... or visiting <http://www.ssa.gov/medicare/>



Important resources

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

800-Medicare (800-633-4227), 877-486-2048 (TTY)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

[medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)

Obtain basic Medicare information & request documents

Social Security

800-772-1213, 800-325-0778 (TTY)

[socialsecurity.gov](https://www.socialsecurity.gov)

Sign up for Medicare, apply for extra help or get a paper application, request a replacement card, report a change in address

Railroad Retirement Board

877-772-5772, 312-751-4701 (TTY)

[rrb.gov](https://www.rrb.gov)

Sign up for Medicare, request a replacement card, report a change in address

PA APPRISE

800-783-7067

State Health Insurance Assistance
Program in Pennsylvania

PACE/PACENET

(State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program)

800-225-7223



Contact us

Our knowledgeable Medicare Advisors can answer any questions you may have about eligibility, plan options and costs. More than 89,000 Medicare beneficiaries already trust Geisinger Gold, and we can help you find the best plan for your needs and budget. To help you find the best plan for your situation, we offer free in-home consultations without obligation.

Customer service

800-505-8285 (TTY: 711)

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

7 days a week, October 1 - February 14

Monday - Friday, February 15 - September 30

Online

[GeisingerGold.com](https://www.GeisingerGold.com)

Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc., and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company (the "Health Plan") comply with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-447-4000 (TTY: 711).

注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電1-800-447-4000 (TTY: 711)。

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Geisinger Gold Medicare Advantage HMO and PPO plans are offered by Geisinger Health Plan/Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company/Geisinger Quality Options, Inc., health plans with a Medicare contract. Continued enrollment in Geisinger Gold depends on annual contract renewal.

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