

Medicare for All Act of 2021

What does Medicare for All cover?

All medically necessary care, including hospitalization and doctor visits; dental, vision, and hearing care; mental health services; reproductive care, including abortion; long-term care services and supports; ambulatory services; and prescription drugs. Patients will have free choice of any doctor or hospital.

Who does Medicare for All cover?

Everybody living in the U.S. for life, regardless of age, income, employment, or immigration status

What does Medicare for All cost?

For patients, all medically necessary care will be provided free at the point of service, without premiums, copays, or deductibles. Medicare for All will reduce national health spending by eliminating the waste and profits of commercial insurance; streamlining the administrative and billing burden on doctors and hospitals; and slashing drug costs by negotiating prices for medications and equipment (overriding drug patents when necessary), and establishing a national drug formulary that promotes the use of generics.

How does Medicare for All pay hospitals and providers?

Patients will never be billed for care. Our national health program will reimburse physicians and other providers directly for their services. Institutions such as hospitals and nursing homes will be funded with annual "global operating budgets," similar to the way we fund fire departments, schools, and other public services, with a separate fund for capital expenditures like renovations. Providers cannot use public funds for profits, marketing, or bonuses.

How does Medicare for All address health equity?

Besides eliminating all financial barriers to care, it promotes health equity in several ways:

- Establishes an Office of Health Equity to track health outcomes, address disparities, and promote primary care for underserved populations;
- Provides regional need-based funding that will finally invest significant resources in underserved rural and urban communities;
- Preserves the facilities and services provided by the Dept. of Veteran Affairs, Indian Health Service, and military Tricare program.
- Protects reproductive health by overriding the Hyde Amendment that currently bans federal funding of abortion.

How will Medicare for All be implemented?

The program will be implemented over a two-year period. In the first year, current Medicare enrollees can utilize expanded benefits such as dental and vision care. After year one, the program automatically enrolls everyone ages 0-18 and 55+, and also offers a Medicare Transition buy-in plan. After year two, everyone is covered. The plan also allocates 1% of the budget for the first five years to assist displaced insurance workers.