

Benefits Corner

2nd Quarter 2026

By Jim Bonwell, CRA Benefits Chair

- 2026 Medicare Changes
- Advanced Care Planning
- Verizon Discount



2026 Medicare Changes

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2026 premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance amounts for the Medicare Part A and Part B programs, and the 2026 Medicare Part D income-related monthly adjustment amounts. Here are the key Medicare changes for 2026:

- **Part B Premium Increase:** The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B increased to \$202.90, up from \$185 in 2025.
- **Part B Deductible:** The annual deductible for outpatient services (doctor visits, lab work, medical equipment) increased to \$283.
- **Part A Hospital Deductible:** The inpatient hospital deductible rose to \$1,736 per benefit period.
- **Part D Prescription Drug Changes:** The maximum deductible increased to \$615, and beneficiaries have an annual out-of-pocket cap of about \$2,100 for covered prescription drugs.
- **Lower Drug Costs:** Medicare's negotiated prices on several high-cost medications begin taking effect, helping reduce prescription costs for many seniors.

These updates reflect rising healthcare costs while also adding new protections; particularly limits on prescription drug spending to help make Medicare more predictable and affordable for seniors.

Sources

- [2026 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles | CMS](#)
- <https://www.medicare.gov/publications/10050-medicare-and-you.pdf>
- <https://www.medicare.gov/publications/11579-medicare-costs.pdf>

Advance Care Planning

Growing older offers many rewards. However, along with the rewards of aging come new challenges. At some time, you'll most likely face a senior care situation, either as the person in need of care or as a caregiver. Most individuals are unfamiliar with the issues involved with senior care. And when managing older adult care, the financial, legal, and emotional concerns can be overwhelming.

The CRA Advanced Care Planning document examines senior care issues to help you handle current needs and plan for future care for yourself or a family member including identification of senior care needs, evaluation of different types of care, and highlights of government and private insurance opportunities. In addition to the topics discussed here, you'll find a list of references covering a broad spectrum of senior care issues to help you find answers to other questions.

This document is located on the Resources tab of the CRA website. At the time this booklet was last updated, all contact information was accurate. However, as agencies change the focus of their services, contact information may change. Please let us know if you find any errors so we can continue to keep them up to date.

Sources

- <https://www.chevronretirees.org/resources>

Verizon Discount

Save 20% on Monthly Access plan on qualifying plans of \$34.99 or higher

- Save 20% off monthly data access charges on qualifying plans \$34.99 or higher with device payment or legacy 2-year contracts.
- 25% discount on qualified accessories.
- Activation fee waived on new activations with device payment equipment purchases.
- Unlimited Plans are not qualified for discounts.

To qualify for enrollment, you will be required to submit a copy of your Confirmation of Retirement Eligibility letter and to complete the Verizon enrollment form via online or by mail. Please allow for 2 to 3 bill cycles for your account to update.

Details can be found on the Verizon page of the ChevRec BenefitHub website, under Chevron Offers. Contact Jim Bonwell for the Verizon discount documents. He will verify your eligibility and prepare a confirmation letter for you to provide Verizon.

Sources

- [Chevron Recreation BenefitHub](#)

Jim Bonwell

Benefits Chair

jbonwell@pacbell.net