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## GETTING THROUGH THE MEDICARE MAZE

(Originally Published in March 2015 Monthly Commentary)



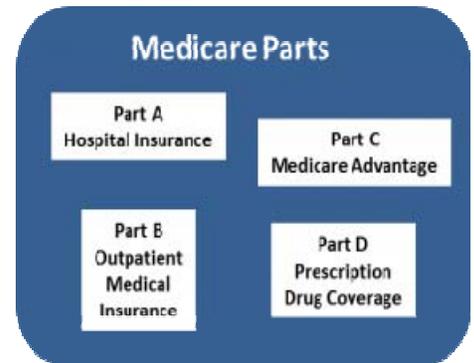
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*“Turning 65 is still an important milestone: It’s the age to make some important decisions regarding Medicare... You’d think that getting enrolled in Medicare and all choices that surround your Medicare decisions would be easy. But there’s lots of ways to go wrong.”*

McCarthy Asset Management, Inc. is an independent, fee-only investment advisory firm that has been helping people invest wisely for over fifteen years. Our mission is to help you better understand and improve your financial situation. We specialize in Retirement Planning, Portfolio Management and Tax Planning.



Over 10,000 Americans turn 65 everyday! And that will happen each and every day for the next 3 decades!! Age 65 used to be thought of as the age to retire. That’s changed. More and more people are working past age 65; with a high percentage by choice, not necessity. But turning 65 is still an important milestone: It’s the age to make some important decisions regarding Medicare.



Medicare is our country’s health insurance program for people 65 and older. Not to be confused with Medi-Cal or Medicaid, which are means-tested healthcare programs available to people of all ages, Medicare is available only to people 65 and older, unless a person has a specific disability that allows them to qualify early.

You’d think that getting enrolled in Medicare and all choices that surround your Medicare decisions would be easy. But there’s lots of ways to go wrong. One of the most common mistakes is not getting signed up for Medicare on time. If you miss the deadline for signing up, you will be penalized for your lifetime. The important point to keep in mind is **that if you’re retired when you turn 65, it’s imperative that you start planning for Medicare 3 months prior to your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. That’s also true if you’re still working and your employer has less than 20 employees.** If you’re still working as you turn 65, and you’re employed by a company with more than 20 employees, you may still want to sign up for Medicare, but only for Part A, the hospitalization benefit of Medicare. Or you may want to postpone signing up for any parts of Medicare until you retire.

Another important decision is whether to elect regular Medicare, or a Medicare Advantage Plan. There are pros and cons to each choice. Maintaining regular Medicare gives you the choice of utilizing any doctor or hospital in the U.S. that accepts Medicare recipients. But this option costs more. The Medicare Advantage route limits you to certain doctors and hospitals but there are cost savings.

You’ll also want to consider whether or not you need a Medicare Supplement policy. These policies pay for some or all of Medicare’s deductibles and co-insurance costs. There are a dozen Medicare Supplement options. The best one for your situation can be determined by doing an analysis of your history of healthcare usage.

## Our Services

### Investment Management Services:

- MAM creates and manages customized investment portfolios based on each client's investment objectives, timeframe and risk tolerance.

### Financial Planning Services:

- The Net Worth Analysis (NWA) tracks the accumulation of Invested Assets for pre-retirees and the retention of Invested Assets for retirees. Updated annually.
- "Retirement Analysis" a comprehensive analysis of your retirement goals, which produces easy-to-read, interactive working plan, stored in the cloud. Updated as needed for life events.

Tax Services: Clients have the option of utilizing the income tax services provided through the firm Stephen P. McCarthy, CPA. These services are offered at an hourly rate and may include:

- Tax Return Preparation
- Income Tax Projections
- Tax Minimization Ideas
- Tax Authority Representation

Other Services: MAM has retained several outside experts, whose services are available at no cost to our clients:

- Long Term Care Planning— Allen Hamm of Superior LTC Planning Services, Inc.

What about prescriptions? This is a vital part of the Medicare equation: choosing a Part D prescription medication provider. Some people going on Medicare skip this step because they don't take any prescription medications. That's a big mistake! You should choose a Part D prescription medication plan, even if you take no medications. Waiting until later will cause penalties for your lifetime.

Because it's so easy to make a wrong turn or skip a step when it comes to getting through the Medicare maze, MAM, Inc. has retained the services of my firm, Superior Long-Term Care, which specializes in this area of planning. My team and I have been working with MAM, Inc. clients for a number of years, assisting them with Medicare and long-term care planning. We are available to make sure you make all the right choices at the right time. There's no charge to you for utilizing our services: MAM, Inc. pays my firm a retainer fee, as a value-added benefit to you for being a client. If you'd like to take advantage of this service, please let Steve know and he will make an introduction.