

Are veterans required to enroll in Medicare?

Nobody is required to enroll in Medicare, but if you do so outside of your Initial Enrollment Period without creditable coverage from an employer, you could face late enrollment penalties. It's important to note that neither **VA** benefits nor **TRICARE** will qualify you to delay Medicare enrollment without financial penalty.

Q: Do I need Medicare if I'm a veteran who's planning to work past 65?

A: If you have creditable drug coverage from an employer and plan to work past 65, you may be able to delay Medicare enrollment without penalty.

Q: Is Medicare mandatory for veterans with VA benefits?

A: Medicare is not mandatory for anyone, but if you enroll outside of your Initial Enrollment Period and don't qualify to delay, you could face late enrollment penalties. If you have VA benefits, you do not have to enroll in Medicare in order to keep your VA benefits.

That being said, the Veterans Administration actually recommends veterans enroll in Medicare when they become eligible. Enrolling offers veterans more coverage choices and options for medical and hospital care, as well as for prescription drug services if they also enroll in a Part D plan. Finally, the VA has also cautioned veterans that it's uncertain whether or not they'll be able to continue to cover all veterans in the future.