

2027 Medicare Part D Plan Review Guide

Revised September 29, 2026

Before you start

You can compare 2027 drug plans now, but you can only enroll from October 15 to December 7, 2026; coverage starts January 1, 2027. Plans may publish 2027 details from October 1, so if Plan Finder still shows 2026 plans, check back.

Key dates

- **October 15, 2026:** Open enrollment begins.
- **December 7, 2026:** Last day to join, switch or drop a plan. There are no extensions.
- **January 1, 2027:** New coverage starts.

Have these ready

- Your Medicare number and Part A/Part B effective dates (or your red-white-and-blue card)
- Your current plan's *Annual Notice of Change* letter, which shows your 2027 premium, deductible and formulary changes
- A list of every prescription: drug name, strength (for example, 10 mg), how much you take, and how often
- The names and addresses of the pharmacies you use, including any mail-order pharmacy
- Your ZIP code and whether you get Extra Help (Low-Income Subsidy)

Comparing plans on Medicare.gov

The whole comparison takes about 20 minutes if your drug list is ready. Screen labels on Medicare.gov change from year to year, so the wording below may differ slightly.

1. Go to [medicare.gov/plan-compare](https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare) and choose **Find health & drug plans**.
2. Enter your ZIP code and select your county. You can log in to your Medicare account to pull in your saved drugs, or continue without logging in.
3. Choose **Drug plan (Part D)** if you have Original Medicare and want a stand-alone plan. If you are in a Medicare Advantage plan, keep in mind that changing your drug coverage may affect your medical coverage.
4. Add each prescription. Pick the exact drug, the dosage, the package size, how many you take, and how often. Choose the generic if you take one.
5. Select your pharmacies. Add your usual pharmacy first, then any mail-order option. Note whether each plan lists it as **preferred** or **standard**.
6. Set the plan year to **2027**, not 2026. Make sure the results say 2027 at the top.
7. Sort the results by **Lowest drug + premium cost** and look at the estimated total for the year, not just the monthly premium.
8. Select up to three plans and use **Compare** to see them side by side.
9. Open each plan's details and check every drug for tier and restrictions (prior authorization, step therapy, quantity limits).
10. Record your results on the worksheet below, then repeat the comparison for your current plan so you can see what staying put would cost.

What to compare beyond the premium

The monthly premium is often the smallest part of a year's drug cost, so compare the total estimated yearly cost first. Two 2027 changes matter: the standard deductible rises to \$700 (from \$615) and the annual out-of-pocket cap rises to \$2,400 (from \$2,100), per [CMS figures reported by Medicare Made Clear](#). Many plans charge less than the \$700 maximum deductible, so check each plan's own number.

- **Estimated total yearly cost:** Premium plus drug costs. This is the best single number for ranking plans.
- **Deductible:** What you pay in full before the plan helps. Some plans waive it for certain tiers.
- **Drug coverage:** Is every one of your drugs on the formulary? Note the tier and any restrictions.
- **Pharmacy:** Preferred pharmacies usually cost less. Confirm your pharmacy is in the network.
- **Premium changes:** Many stand-alone plan premiums are expected to rise in 2027 as a temporary federal premium subsidy ends, so do not assume your current plan stays cheap. See [Medicare on Main](#).
- **Star rating:** Higher-rated plans tend to have better service.
- **Insulin and vaccines:** Covered insulin is capped at \$35 per month and recommended adult vaccines have no cost sharing.
- **Payment help:** The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan spreads costs into monthly payments. Extra Help can lower costs sharply for those who qualify.

Comparison worksheet

Fill in one column per plan, starting with your current plan's 2027 details. Add rows for extra drugs.

What to record	Current plan	Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 3
Plan name and ID				
Monthly premium (\$)				
Yearly deductible (\$)				
Estimated total yearly cost, premium + drugs (\$)				
Drug 1: covered? tier? restrictions?				
Drug 2: covered? tier? restrictions?				
Drug 3: covered? tier? restrictions?				
Drug 4: covered? tier? restrictions?				
My pharmacy: preferred, standard or not in network				
Mail-order option and cost				
Star rating (1 to 5)				
Notes				

Choosing, enrolling and getting help

Pick the plan with the lowest estimated total yearly cost that covers all your drugs at your pharmacy, then confirm the details with the plan before you enroll. If your current plan is close in cost, staying put avoids disruption, but only after you have compared it.

- **Enroll:** Between October 15 and December 7, enroll on [Medicare.gov](#), call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or call the plan directly. Keep your confirmation number.
- **Do nothing:** Most plans renew automatically at their 2027 price, so a missed comparison can cost you.

- **Free counseling:** Your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) offers unbiased one-on-one help. Find yours at shiphelp.org.
- **Extra Help:** Ask Social Security whether you qualify for the Low-Income Subsidy.

Sources: [UnitedHealthcare / Medicare Made Clear](#) (2027 deductible and cap), [Medicare on Main](#) (2027 premium subsidy change), [Kiplinger](#) (open enrollment dates). Confirm figures on Medicare.gov before sharing with clients.