

Medicare: FAST TRACK PANAMA!



**Ron's One-of-a Kind Book
Available In The IL Bookstore**

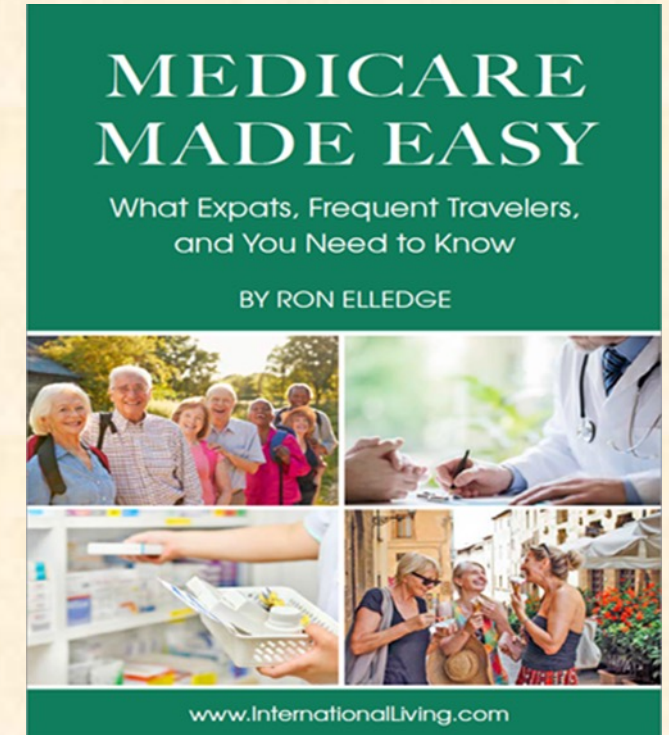
Ron Elledge Consulting

Medicare Specialist for Expats and Travelers

www.RonElledge.com

email: ron@ronelledge.com

www.RonElledge.com/Ask-Ron



Should an Expat Enroll in Part B?



Enrollment in Part A is Usually a No-Brainer!

ENROLL IN PART B AS SOON AS YOU BECOME ELIGIBLE

Unless

You Will be Eligible for a Part B Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

SEP #1 for the Working Aged and Working Disabled

SEP #2 You are volunteering internationally.

Should an Expat Enroll in Part B?



ENROLL IN PART B AS SOON AS YOU BECOME ELIGIBLE

Unless

- **You Will be Eligible for a Part B Special Enrollment Period (SEP)**

Or

- **You have other coverage that Will Last A Lifetime**

Or

- **In some cases, because You are a High Dollar Earner**

Should an Expat Enroll in Part B?



Let's look at:

Three Reasons to Keep Part B while living overseas!

We will use Pete and Marta to illustrate the first two reasons:

- 1. Part B Late Enrollment Penalties**
- 2. Costly Delays in Coverage**

Should an Expat Enroll in Part B?

For illustration purposes, we will use Pete and Marta, a hypothetical couple.



BACKGROUND

Pete and Marta have been in Italy for years.

They had no plans to move back to the States.

They were happy with the Italian Health Care System.

Pete turned 65 in 2015 and Marta turned 65 in Feb 2017.

In early 2021, Pete passed away suddenly.

Marta had friends in Italy, but she was dealing with some health issues and her children wanted her to be close.

Marta wrapped up her affairs and moved Stateside in May of 2021.

Should an Expat Enroll in Part B?

For illustration purposes, we will use Pete and Marta, a hypothetical couple.



TWO SCENARIOS TO CONSIDER:

Scenario 1: If Pete and Marta had enrolled in A and B of Medicare at 65

Scenario 2: If Pete and Marta had enrolled in A and Delayed Part B at 65

Should an Expat Enroll in Part B?

SCENERIO 1



Pete and Marta enrolled in Both Medicare A and B at 65

At times, they second-guessed themselves as they paid the premiums

However, now Marta was thrilled she had Both A and B Medicare

- **She was covered by Parts A and B from day one of her return to the States**
- **She arrived stateside on May 24**
- **She enrolled in an Advantage Plan on May 27**
- **Her Advantage Plan coverage began on June 1, 2021**

Should an Expat Enroll in Part B?

SCENARIO 2



Pete and Marta enrolled in Part A and delayed Part B at 65

Marta found she had no Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

REASON 1 TO KEEP PART B ACTIVE:

Because Marta went without Part B for 4 full years after her IEP:

- **Marta would owe a Part B Late Enrollment Penalty of 10% per year**
- **She would have to pay a 40% penalty (\$68 per month in 2022)**

Marta will pay the penalty for as long as she has Part B

If she lives to 85, she will pay almost \$12,000 in penalties

Should an Expat Enroll in Part B?

SCENARIO 2



Pete and Marta enrolled in Part A and **Delayed Part B at 65**

Marta found she had no Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

REASON 2 TO KEEP PART B ACTIVE:

She would have to enroll in Part B during the General Enrollment Period

- **GEP runs from Jan 1 through March 31 each year with Coverage beginning July 1**

Marta returned to the States in May of 2021

Her Part B wouldn't begin until July 1, 2022

Marta will have no Part B coverage for 13 Months

(And with no Part B she is not eligible for a Supplement or Medicare Advantage Plan)

REASON 3 FOR KEEPING PART B

Don't be Financially Devastated While Visiting the US!



For illustration purposes only, we will use Mary's story, a hypothetical person.

Mary has been a resident of Costa Rica for several years.

- She is covered by La Caja (Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social)
- A government sponsored health insurance program in Costa Rica.
- **Mary and her husband decided to save money by discontinuing their Part B.**
- While in the States for a family emergency Mary fell during a hike with friends.
- She had to be transported to the emergency room by helicopter.

Don't be Financially Devastated While Visiting the US!



- Once Mary arrived at the hospital, she underwent X-rays, MRI, other tests.
- She was diagnosed with a severe break to her right leg, ankle and elbow.
- She was then moved to outpatient surgery where her leg and elbow required extensive rebuilds.
- After surgery, Mary was moved to observation and finally admitted for further care.

Before Mary was admitted to the hospital, her entire treatment was covered under Part B of Medicare, from helicopter through observation.

Mary's Total Bill was \$60,000

Don't be Financially Devastated While Visiting the US!



With Part B

Billed Charges:	\$60,000
Medicare Approved:	
Rarely over 60%:	\$ 36,000
Medicare pays 80%:	\$ <u>28,800</u>
This leaves:	\$ 7,200 About 12%

Without Part B

Billed Charges:	\$60,000
Medicare Approved:	
OOPS No Part B:	\$.00
Medicare pays	\$ <u>.00</u>
This leaves:	\$60,000 Exactly 100%

All charges typically negotiated and paid by Medicare will be passed on to her at 100% of the billed amount.

Mary is on the hook for the entire \$60,000 instead of \$7,200

Medicare: How To Use it for Travel!



Medical Transportation and Evacuation Protection

The right combination can make all the difference!

Medicare: How To Use it for Travel!



I am often asked,

When you are overseas for 4 to 6 months at a time what do you do about medical insurance?

Our Medicare choices are personal, based on our set of circumstances.

I am 73, with a medical history,

I have trouble getting or affording travel insurance.

However, if I could get it, I probably would not,

I use Medicare.

Medicare: How To Use it for Travel!



MY PERSONAL CHOICES:

For Medicare Coverage:

- **I chose a Medicare Advantage Plan, it covers all my doctors, hospitals and pharmacy needs in the US.**
- **It also has the correct Worldwide Emergency and Urgent Care travel coverage.**
- **I am covered for 6 months of every trip outside the US.**
- **I have a \$90 copay, and no coinsurance or coverage limits.**

Medicare: How To Use it for Travel!



MY PERSONAL CHOICES:

For Evacuation Coverage:

I chose a plan that will return me to the US once I'm Stable.

My coverage is for 6 months of every trip outside the US, this coincides with my Medicare Plan.

I have no additional copay for ambulance or the airlift back home.

Because Medicare expects me to pay upfront and get reimbursed when I submit receipts, I chose a Transportation Plan that offers an Emergency Medical Cash Advance of up to \$60,000.

Medicare: FAST TRACK PANAMA!



**Ron's One-of-a Kind Book
Available In The IL Bookstore**

Ron Elledge Consulting

Medicare Specialist for Expats and Travelers

www.RonElledge.com

email: ron@ronelledge.com

www.RonElledge.com/Ask-Ron

