

2002 MEDICARE PART B

Part B is Medical Insurance and covers physician services, outpatient care, tests and supplies.

On expenses incurred for:	Medicare Covers	You Pay \$100 Annual Deductible PLUS
Medical Expenses Physician's services for inpatient and outpatient medical/surgical services; physical/speech therapy, diagnostic tests	80 percent of approved amount	20 percent of approved amount
Clinical Laboratory Services Blood tests, urinalysis	Generally 100 percent of approved amount	Nothing for services
Home Health Care Part-time or intermittent skilled care, home health aide services, durable medical supplies and other services	100 percent of approved amount; 80 percent of approved amount for durable medical equipment	Nothing for services; 20 percent of approved amount for durable medical equipment
Outpatient Hospital Treatment Hospital services for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury	Medicare payment to hospital, based on outpatient procedure payment rates	Coinsurance based on outpatient payment rates
Blood	After first three pints of blood, 80 percent of approved amount	First three pints plus 20 percent of approved amount for additional pints

On all Medicare-covered expenses, a doctor or other health care provider may agree to accept Medicare "assignment." This means the patient will not be required to pay any expense in excess of Medicare's "approved" charge. The patient pays only 20 percent of the "approved" charge not paid by Medicare.

Physicians who do not accept assignment of a Medicare claim are limited as to the amount they can charge for covered services. In 2002, the most a physician can charge for services covered by Medicare is 115 percent of the fee schedule amount for nonparticipating physicians.



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