

## What do you need to know about your rights and privacy?

- Your participation is voluntary. You do not have to answer any question you do not want to answer, though most people find the interview enjoyable.
- The information you provide will be kept private to the extent permitted by law, as prescribed by the Privacy Act of 1974. The information you give will only be used for research and statistical purposes.
- Your Medicare Benefits will not be affected in any way by your answers or your decision whether or not to participate.
- Your data could be carefully verified by computer matching to administrative records under Public Law 100-503 [The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act].

## Any other questions?

Please feel free to contact MCBS staff at NORC at the University of Chicago at anytime.

*Call toll-free at: 1-877-389-3429*

*Email at: [mcbs@norc.org](mailto:mcbs@norc.org)*

*Visit us at: [mcbs.norc.org](http://mcbs.norc.org)*



**NORC**  
at the UNIVERSITY of CHICAGO

*This survey is authorized by section 1875 (42 USC 139511) of the Social Security Act and is conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

*OMB No. 0938-0568 | Expires 8/31/2022*

# MCBS

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey



You have been selected to take part in an important study called the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS). You are one of 16,000 people scientifically selected at random to represent the Medicare experiences of other Medicare beneficiaries all over the United States.

## What is the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey?

The MCBS is a study to learn more about people who use Medicare, in order for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and researchers to learn more about Medicare beneficiaries and their health care experiences. The MCBS has been conducted since 1991 because the information you provide about your health and health care costs is so valuable. CMS, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, oversees Medicare and sponsors this survey in order to gain valuable information from you about how Medicare is administered.

## What does this mean for me?

If you take part in this study a specially trained interviewer from our contractor, NORC at the University of Chicago, will interview you by phone. The interviewer will ask you questions about the health care services you use, your opinions about those services, and how much they cost. The initial survey lasts about an hour, with the remaining surveys lasting approximately ninety minutes. The MCBS collects data three times a year, and you will be contacted again for subsequent interviews. You will truly be our partner in this survey, because your continued participation makes the survey data we collect valuable.

## Why should I participate?

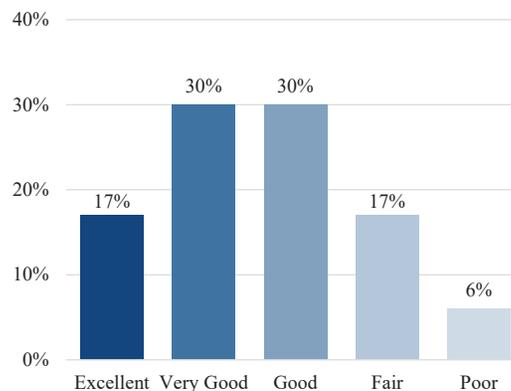
The information you provide us cannot be replaced by any other data source in the country. This study is the only source of such in-depth health care cost and use, which are used to accomplish the following:

- To help us understand how Medicare affects your daily life, and what problems you might be experiencing with it.
- To help increase Medicare coverage and efficiency for you and for other beneficiaries, both now and in the future.
- To provide legislators and policy makers with more information to create effective laws and regulations for people enrolled in Medicare. In fact, the Part D prescription drug benefit was created in part based on findings from the MCBS.
- To improve the quality of care you and other Medicare beneficiaries receive.
- To create reports using your data to describe key factors about how people use Medicare.

## What do we know about Medicare because of YOU?

### Self-Reported Health Status, 2018

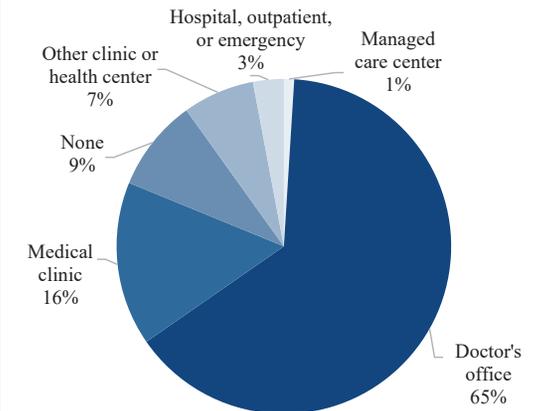
A large majority of Medicare beneficiaries classify their health as excellent, very good or good.



Source: 2018 Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey Early Look Data Brief

### Usual Source of Care, 2017

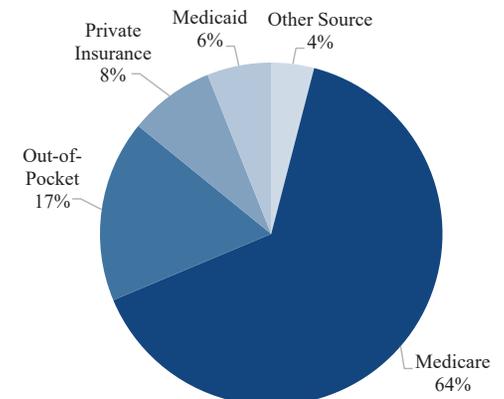
The usual source of health care for over 60% of beneficiaries with original Medicare is a doctor's office, while 9% do not have a usual source of care.



Source: Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey Chartbook, 2017  
Does not include beneficiaries with Medicare Advantage

### Source of Payment, 2017

Health care spending by Medicare beneficiaries was almost \$1 billion in 2017; Medicare covered 64% of those costs.



Source: Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey Chartbook, 2017