

SEP to Coordinate with the Part B General Enrollment Period (GEP)

Part B General Enrollment Period SEP (GEP SEP)

What

Every year, from the beginning of January through the end of March, there is a Medicare General Enrollment Period (GEP) during which people who did not enroll in Medicare Part B when they were first eligible to do so can go to their Social Security Administration office to enroll in Medicare Part B. Their Part B enrollment becomes effective in July.

A Part D SEP is tied to the GEP. Certain individuals who enrolled in Part B during a GEP for Part B between January and March can use this Part D SEP to select a Part D plan. People who got Part A automatically because they had a sufficient work history, however, cannot use this SEP. It is only for people who must pay for their Part A, due to a lack of sufficient work quarters.

When

The SEP begins April 1st and ends June 30th. The Part D plan into which someone using this SEP enrolls becomes effective on July 1st to coincide with the start of their Part B coverage.

CMS Reference:

PDP Guidance - Eligibility, Enrollment and Disenrollment

20.3.8 - SEPs for Exceptional Conditions

CMS has the legal authority to establish SEPs when an individual or group of individuals meets exceptional conditions specified by CMS, including on a case-by-case basis. The SEPs CMS has established include:

6. SEP for Individuals Who Enroll in Part B during the Part B General Enrollment Period (GEP) – An SEP will be provided to individuals who are not entitled to premium free Part A and who enroll in Part B during the General Enrollment Period for Part B (January – March) for an effective date of July 1st.

The SEP will begin April 1st and end June 30th, with an effective date of July 1st.