Medicare IRMAA

Understanding Higher-Income Medicare Premiums

What Is IRMAA?

IRMAA (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount) is an additional surcharge that some higher-income Medicare beneficiaries pay for Medicare Parts B and D. Most Medicare beneficiaries do NOT pay IRMAA. However, if your income exceeds certain thresholds, Medicare may charge higher monthly premiums. For 2026, Medicare generally looks at your 2024 tax return.

How IRMAA Works

2024 Tax Return → **Social Security Reviews Income** → **2026 Medicare Premiums**

IRMAA Level	Single Income	Joint Income	Part B Premium	Part D IRMAA	Total IRMAA Surcharge
Standard Premium	≤ $109,000	≤ $218,000	$202.90	$0.00	$0
Level 1	$109,001-$137,000	$218,001-$274,000	$284.10	$14.50	$95.70
Level 2	$137,001-$171,000	$274,001-$342,000	$405.80	$37.50	$240.40
Level 3	$171,001-$205,000	$342,001-$410,000	$527.50	$60.40	$385.00
Level 4	$205,001-$499,999	$410,001-$749,999	$649.20	$83.30	$529.60
Level 5	$500,000+	$750,000+	$689.90	$91.00	$578.00

MOST IMPORTANT RULE

A temporary increase in income can significantly increase your Medicare premiums. If your income later decreases, you may be able to reduce your IRMAA by requesting a redetermination using Form SSA-44.

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Common IRMAA Questions, Triggers & Planning Tips

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

- IRMAA only affects Part B. → It affects both Part B and Part D.
- IRMAA lasts forever. → It can change if income changes.
- Retirement automatically removes IRMAA. → SSA may need Form SSA-44.
- IRMAA affects Med Supp premiums. → It does not.

COMMON IRMAA TRIGGERS

- RMDs and IRA withdrawals
- Capital gains
- Dividends and interest
- Pension income
- Sale of rental property

LIFE-CHANGING EVENTS

- Retirement, death of a spouse, divorce, marriage, loss of pension income, or loss of income-producing property may qualify.

FORM SSA-44

Request for Medicare IRMAA Redetermination

PLANNING TIPS

- Watch large IRA withdrawals and capital gains.
- Understand RMD impacts before year-end.
- Qualified Roth withdrawals generally do not trigger IRMAA.
- Ask before making a major taxable transaction.

Higher income does not affect your Medicare benefits, but it can significantly increase what you pay for Medicare Parts B and D.

Educational purposes only. Medicare rules, premiums, and IRMAA thresholds may change annually. Consult Social Security, Medicare, your tax advisor, or financial professional for your specific situation.

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