

Medicare Changes 1986 – 2026

	1986	2026
Total Medicare Beneficiaries	31.2 million	69.7 million
Hospital Deductible	\$492	\$1,736
Hospital Co-pay	\$123	\$434
SNF Co-Insurance	\$27.50	\$217
Part B Monthly Premium	\$15.50	\$202.90 *
Part C	N/A	Medicare Advantage ~ 54% Beneficiaries (34 million)
Part D / Rx Monthly Premium	N/A	Average \$34.50*
Part D Annual OOP Cap	N/A	\$2,100
Medicare Employer / Employee Tax	1.45%**	1.45%**

*This is basic premium rate; it increases based on income.

** 1986 was the last time the Medicare tax was increased. From 1966 (inception of program) until 1986, it was increased ten times – almost annually. During that time period the number and categories of enrollees and benefits were also increased and were reflected in increasing the tax (one exception: In 2013 the Affordable Care Act added a 0.9% tax applied to wages \geq \$200,000/Yr per individual \$250,000/Yr per Couple).