THE ABOUT PODCAST | EPISODE 63

Medicare Made Clear: Your Options, Your Costs, and Mistakes to Avoid

Roy Hucke and Jeremy Scott talk with Nora Cook of Sage Benefit Advisors

Medicare plays an important role in retirement, but the monthly premium is only one piece of the decision. In this episode, Roy Hucke and Jeremy Scott walk through enrollment timing, Medicare Advantage versus Medigap, and the mistakes that can cost people for years.

EPISODE SUMMARY

Medicare plays an important role in retirement, but understanding enrollment, coverage options, and costs can feel overwhelming. The right choice involves much more than the monthly premium. Your doctors, prescriptions, health needs, travel plans, and financial situation all deserve a close look before you enroll or change plans.

Roy and Jeremy are joined by Nora Cook of Sage Benefit Advisors for a practical walkthrough. Nora explains how Medicare Advantage differs from Medicare Supplement (Medigap) insurance, why enrollment timing matters, and how an experienced insurance broker can help before and after you select coverage. The conversation also covers working past 65 with an HSA, Social Security deductions, income-related premiums, annual plan reviews, and international travel. It is a useful starting point for anyone preparing for Medicare, reviewing current coverage, or helping a loved one make informed decisions.

KEY TOPICS & TAKEAWAYS

- Preparing for Medicare starts early, and employer coverage and Social Security can change how and when you enroll.
- Medicare Advantage and Medigap differ in provider access, premiums, and potential out-of-pocket costs, so the right fit depends on your situation.
- Working past 65 requires careful coordination between Medicare enrollment and HSA contributions.
- Missed enrollment deadlines can lead to lasting late-enrollment penalties, and switching to Medigap later may involve medical underwriting.
- Income-related premium adjustments, known as IRMAA, belong in retirement planning because

higher income can raise what you pay for Medicare.

- Annual reviews should weigh your prescriptions, providers, location, and travel plans, not just the premium, and a good broker can keep helping after enrollment.

TIMESTAMPS

00:00 Welcome and meet Nora Cook
00:35 About Sage Benefit Advisors
03:21 When should you start thinking about Medicare?
06:10 Medicare Parts A and B explained
08:30 How a Medicare broker can help
11:24 Working past 65: Medicare and HSAs
13:16 Medicare Advantage versus Medigap
15:58 Switching plans and medical underwriting
17:39 Finding coverage that fits your needs
19:31 Enrollment mistakes and late penalties
20:43 Paying Medicare premiums and Social Security deductions
22:29 IRMAA: How income affects Medicare premiums
25:36 Clergy, work history, and Medicare eligibility
28:51 Annual Election Period and ongoing agent support
30:51 Choosing coverage beyond the monthly premium
32:32 How location and moving affect plan options
34:37 International travel and health coverage
37:54 Long-term care and short-term care insurance
39:19 Dental, vision, and hearing coverage
41:42 Choosing an agent and continuity of support
44:17 Avoiding scams and unwanted plan changes
46:49 Connecting with Nora and closing thoughts

RESOURCES & LINKS

- **Sage Benefit Advisors**
  Nora Cook's firm. Visit the Medicare section of the website.
- **Listen to the full episode (Audio)**
- **Watch on YouTube**

ENJOYED THIS EPISODE?

Subscribe to The About Podcast so you never miss an episode, leave a rating or review on your favorite listening platform to help others find the show, join our mailing list for new episodes and financial insights, or reach out to work with Roy.

- Listen on Spotify
- Listen on Apple Podcasts
- Listen on Acast
- Watch & subscribe on YouTube
- Join our mailing list
- Work with Roy