

Two Options for Supplementing Medicare

REQUIRED WITH BOTH OPTIONS

Medicare

Medicare Part A & Part B

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OPTION #1

Medigap Policy

- Covers “gaps” in Medicare
 - 2 different types of Medigap plans
1. **Core**
\$95.30/month* - covers some gaps
 2. **Supplement 1**
\$191.62/month* - covers all gaps
- Free to choose any doctor or hospital that accepts Medicare
 - No referrals needed to see specialists
 - Does NOT include drug coverage
 - When changing Medigap plans, need to call plan to disenroll

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OPTION #2

Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C)

- Optional “Replacement”
- Must maintain Part A & Part B and must pay Part B premium
- 5 types of MA plans
 1. **HMO** (Health Maintenance Organization) - May use network providers only
 2. **HMO-POS** (HMO with Point Of Service)-HMO with limited out of network coverage
 3. **PPO** (Preferred Provider Organization)- Can go out of network for extra \$\$
 4. **SNP** (Special Needs Plans)
HMOs for institutionalized individuals or dual eligible
 5. **PFFS** (Private Fee For Service)
Use only providers who accept plan
- Cannot live outside service area for more than 6 consecutive months
- Covers some extra benefits
- Usually need referrals to see specialists
- May have co-pays and deductibles
- Plans can include prescription drug coverage
- Automatic disenrollment when changing Medicare Advantage plans

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OPTIONAL PART D

Stand Alone Prescription Drug Plan

- 30 plans to choose from
- Automatic disenrollment from Prescription Drug Plan when changing Part D plans

OPTIONAL FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY

Prescription Advantage

- Optional state pharmacy program
- Covers Part D coverage gap “Donut Hole”
- Supplements the Part D plan
- FREE to Massachusetts beneficiaries with moderate incomes

*Premium for least expensive Medigap program (sold by BCBS). See Medigap Charts for other companies and premiums

Quick Reference Counselor Tips: Pro's of Medicare Advantage & Medigap Plans

MEDIGAP

Medigap plans tend to be bought by people with a high utilization of medical services such as doctors and hospital services. These plans are also popular amongst individuals who travel in foreign countries and who like to be able to choose which doctor they see without a referral. Medigap plans DO NOT include prescription drug coverage.

Pro's:

- Can see any provider that accepts Medicare (no networks)
- No referrals or PCP is needed
- Continuous open enrollment periods
- Low to no co-pays or deductibles
- Many plans offer travel coverage
- All plans are standard and with only 2 types of plans available, choosing a plan is easier
- ESRD 65+ can join a Medigap plan

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Medicare Advantage plans tend to attract people who are not high utilizers of medical services. They also attract people who want a lower premium plan.

Pro's:

- Convenience of having only one plan (drug plan can be included)
- More choices available (HMO's, PPO's...)
- Lower premiums than Medigap plans
- Potential for better coordination of care (HMO's provide this)
- Additional benefits such as hearing, dental, vision and annual exams
- No hospital stay required for SNF coverage benefit