

What does a Medicare Advantage plan cover / not cover?

Medicare Advantage plans, also known as Medicare Part C, is another way for beneficiaries to receive their Medicare benefits. These plans are *required to offer everything that's covered under Original Medicare, Part A and Part B* (except for hospice care). Original Medicare covers hospice care even if you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan. All types of Medicare Advantage plan options cover emergency and urgent care. Depending on where you live, you might not find every type of plan available to you. **Out-of-network/non-contracted providers are under no obligation to treat plan members, except in emergency situations.** These type plans may include other benefits as well, such as prescription drug coverage, routine dental, vision and fitness programs. These type plans may also come with a **high maximum out-of-pocket limit (could be over \$6500.00)** that is the Max you could spend on health costs each year.

If you're looking for a Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug plan (Medicare Advantage plan with prescription drug coverage), you might want to **make sure it covers the prescriptions you take and compare the cost sharing because this may vary from plan to plan.** Each Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug plan *has its own formulary (list of covered prescription drugs)*. **The formulary may change at any time;** you should receive notice from your plan when necessary.

How do Medicare Advantage plans work?

Medicare Advantage plans *are offered by private insurance companies* that are approved by Medicare. **Every month, Medicare pays the private insurance company a fixed amount,** (varies per state and county within state) then that company *sets its own premium and covers your costs*, according to rules set by Medicare. **You cannot use Original Medicare Benefits, and you're still required to pay your monthly Medicare Part B premium.** If you were to show your **Medicare Card for billing, Medicare would DENY YOUR CLAIM if you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan!**

Medicare Advantage plans can come in many different types and benefits may vary by plan. The different forms of Medicare Advantage plans include:

- Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)
- Preferred Provider Organization (PPO)
- Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS)
- Special Needs Plans (SNPs)
- HMO Point-Of-Service (HMO-POS)
- Medical Savings Account (MSA)

How do I qualify for enrollment in a Medicare Advantage plan?

Qualifying for enrollment in a Medicare Advantage plan requires that you are enrolled in both Medicare Part A and Part B. People with end-stage renal disease are generally not eligible to enroll in this type of Medicare plan. Additionally, **you must live within the service area of the Medicare Advantage plan you'd like to enroll in.**

How do I choose a Medicare Advantage plan? **WITH CAUTION:**

Everyone has different needs. Only you know your needs and what you will be able to afford. *Think carefully about what choice makes the most sense for your situation.* You should not only consider present needs but **consider future needs.** **THIS COULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION YOU MAKE; THE WRONG DECISION COULD BE COSTLY!!!!** It's difficult to determine which type of coverage is the right option. It's **important to know all the details** of each Medicare Advantage plan, **including the fine print**, and compare the different benefits, costs, and restrictions of each plan option available in your area. **If you have a specific doctor or hospital** that you want to use, be sure to check that **they're included in each plans network** of the Medicare Advantage plan that you're interested in. Many *Advantage Plans have an Annual Out Of Pocket of \$3000 to \$6500.00*, so if your health turns for the worse **you could spend more than if you enrolled in a Medigap Plan.** **Some Medicare Supplement Plans have monthly premiums for less than \$49.00!** A common mistake some Medicare eligible make is **they see and hear Zero Premium and never realize Zero Premium Does Not Mean NO COST!!!**

WHAT TO CHOOSE? Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement:

Pros and Cons of a Medicare Advantage Plan

Pros of Picking a Medicare Advantage Plan:

Medicare Advantage plans are Part C of Medicare. If you have Original Medicare, you have the option of choosing either Medigap or a Medicare Advantage plan, **not both.**

- **More covered services.** Medicare Advantage plans *at a minimum* cover everything that Original Medicare offers. This is a requirement set by the government. Depending on the specific Medicare Advantage plan you choose, you may also receive *additional coverage for services not covered by Original Medicare.*
- **More comprehensive plans.** Many Medicare Advantage plans *include Part D coverage.* This makes things simpler for you by only having to sign up for a single plan. It also decreases the number of premiums you will pay each month.
- Some insurance companies could offer **a \$0 premium for the Medicare Advantage plan.** **Zero Premium Does Not Mean NO COST!!!** Medicare Advantage plan availability will depend on the county and state in which you live.
- Beyond the benefits that Original Medicare offers, your Medicare Advantage plan may cover additional benefits that are not covered by Part A and Part B, **Dental-Vision-Silver Sneakers.**
- Each plan comes with a **maximum out-of-pocket limit (could be about \$3000 to \$7000.00)** that is the Max you could spend on health costs each year. Once that limit is reached, you will pay nothing for covered services. Each Medicare Advantage plan could have a *different limit*, and that **amount may change each year.**

Cons of Picking a Medicare Advantage Plan:

Since Medicare Advantage plan coverage is administered through a private insurance company, the rules and guidelines can vary, which can lead to restrictions. As appealing as a Medicare Advantage plan may seem, **It May Have A Downside. Consider the following before you make your choice.**

- **A smaller network of providers.** You will have a smaller and usually a localized network of providers to choose from than under Original Medicare. This is because not all Medicare providers participate in Medicare Advantage plans. This could make it more difficult to access care in certain situations.
- **Possible Change of doctor or hospital to one within the Medicare Advantage plan's network** for coverage, **if your Doctor leaves the plan you may not be able to stay with that Doctor** or you may have to pay a higher cost.
- **May be required to follow strict rules** to get coverage for certain services or health products, like **getting referrals to see specialists. Plans approval for certain testing.**
- **Premiums, benefits, and copayments may change each year.** Medicare does not regulate how much an insurance company can charge you for premiums or other out of pocket costs.
- **Higher out-of-pocket costs than with Original Medicare.** Advantage Plans can have **Annual Out Of Pocket Maximins of \$3000.00 to \$6500.00.**
- **May NOT renew their contract.** Medicare Advantage plans have contracts with Medicare and **can choose not to renew** their contract for the following year.
- **NOT STANDARDIZED.** Advantage Plans **can vary by State and County within the State!**

Pros and Cons of a Medigap Supplement Plan

Pros of Picking a Medigap Supplemental Plan?

If you choose to stay with Original Medicare, you could purchase a [Medigap supplemental plan to help pay down your Medicare bills](#). They pay toward your out of pocket expenses, specifically deductibles, coinsurance, copayments and even costs towards foreign travel. Medigap plans are labeled A through N. Every lettered plan **IS STANDARDIZED** and will have the same coverage, an F plan is an F plan, B is a B etc., no matter the insurance carrier or area you live.

You cannot have a Medigap supplement plan with a Medicare Advantage plan.

- Administered through Medicare
- Large National Network Coverage
- Any Doctor
- Standardized
- Low or NO Out of Pocket

Cons of Picking a Medicare Supplement Plan:

- Medicare Supplement Plans **cost money!!!**
- **Purchase a Part D plan in addition** to the Medicare Supplement.
- **Prescription drug coverage is not included** with a Medicare Supplement.
- **NO additional coverage** by Original Medicare, **Dental-Vision-Silver Sneakers.**

Is An Advantage Plan Right For You?

Here are some questions to consider when deciding on a Medicare Advantage plan:

- How much are your *Copayments, Percentages and Coinsurance*, both *In and Out-of-Network*?
- Does the plan have an *Annual Deductible*?
- What is the *maximum out-of-pocket limit*? (Every Medicare Advantage plan has one.)
- Does the plan have *network restrictions*? Will you be using *In Network or Out-of-Network Providers*?
- Do you have certain *Doctors and Specialists* you prefer to keep? **Are they in the plan's network?**
- If the plan covers prescription drugs, are all your *medications covered*?
- Are there any additional benefits in the plan, such as routine vision or dental coverage? Do you need them? What are the benefits, minimum or extensive coverage?
- **ARE YOU BETTER OFF WITH A MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT, THAT HAS LESS OR NONE OF THE ABOVE ISSUES? We have Supplement Plans *with premiums for less than \$49.00.***

MAY WE HELP YOU?

If you are new to Medicare or looking at a possible change from your present policy, you are at the right place. We know you have options when it comes to your medical insurance and prescription coverage, we want to be sure we're always your best choice. With **28+ years of experience** we will provide the guidance you need *helping understand the value and more important (non-value) in a policy*. Let a **licensed Medicare Specialist** work with you, explain options to help find the proper **Medicare Supplement, Medicare Advantage Plan** or the yearly changes of the **Part D Prescription Drug Plan**.

If you're ready to discuss your Medicare Options, we'd welcome the opportunity to share our nearly **30 years of experience**.... From the *comfort of your home or office* you can use **TELE-VIDEO CONFERENCING** with **your own computer or iPad (no special equipment needed)**. Screen sharing enables the invited participant (you) to see the screen of the presenter (agent), while the parties are talking by phone. This can help enhance communication by allowing to share solutions and demonstrations step-by-step, users can collaborate with one another and view the same information in real-time.

Let's Get Started:

Go to our Website: www.DavecoInsurance.com Open the **Contact Us Link** to fill and submit a request to schedule time for an **introductory consultation**.

PLEASE NOTE: WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND A CONSULTATION BEFORE QUOTING. This conversation allows us to review your prior coverage, needs, wants, financial concerns, plan values, benefits, cost cuts to Medicare and price reductions. **This helps us help you in making the BEST Plan choice.**

THE PLAN YOU CHOOSE COULD BE YOUR MEDICAL PLAN FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!!!!

If you would rather have some questions answered first - Call or Email.

www.DavecoInsurance.com



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Our Guarantee:

- We will never come to your home unless invited.
- We guarantee to have the best prices for the Medicare plan you are interested in.
- One agent will be assigned to service you.
- We do not collect your information and give it to anybody else for any reason.
- All information provided on the form(s) is confidential and will be used solely to develop your quote.

When can I sign up for a Medicare Advantage plan?

There are certain time periods when you can enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan.

- **The Initial Coverage Election Period (ICEP)** begins three months immediately before you are entitled to both Medicare Part A and Part B. The ICEP ends either the last day of the month before you have both Part A and Part B or the last day of the Part B Initial Enrollment Period, whichever is later.
- If you're enrolled in Original Medicare during your Medicare **Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)**, automatically or otherwise, your Initial Coverage Election Period and your Initial Enrollment Period happen at the same time. The Initial Enrollment Period starts three months before the month you turn 65, includes your birth month, and ends three months after that (seven months total). If you didn't sign up for Original Medicare during the Initial Enrollment Period (if you still have health insurance through an employer or union, for example), your Initial Coverage Election Period is the 3-month period before your Medicare Part B start date. For example, if you enrolled in Medicare Part B during the General Enrollment Period (January 1–March 31), your Part B start date would be July 1, so your Initial Coverage Election Period would be April 1 to June 30.
- **The Annual Election Period (AEP)** runs from October 15 to December 7 each year. You can switch from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan at this time and make other coverage changes. If you're already enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan and want to switch plans, in most cases a good time to do so is during the Annual Election Period. When you change Medicare plans during the Annual Election Period, your new coverage generally begins on January 1 of the following year.
- In some cases, you may be able to change Medicare Advantage plans during Special Election Periods (SEPs). Situations that qualify (but are not limited to) include moving to a new address, losing your current coverage, qualifying for other coverage, or changes in your current plan that affect your health benefits.
- If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan and want to switch back to Original Medicare, Part A and Part B, you can do so during the AEP (described above) or *starting January 1, 2019* during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period, *which will run from January 1 to March 31st annually*. The new Medicare Advantage OEP allows individuals enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA) plan, including newly MA-eligible individuals, to make *a one-time election to go to another MA plan or Original Medicare*. Individuals using the MA OEP to make a change may make a coordinating change to add or drop Part D coverage.

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