

E-GUIDE MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS VS. MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

A Free Guide From The Bedrock Group

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INSIDE THE GUIDE

Whether you are new to Medicare or helping a loved one navigate options, this guide will help you understand the key differences between Medicare Supplement (Medigap) plans and medicare advantage (Part C) plans - so you can make the best choice for your health and wallet.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jamie Byrd is the CMO of The Bedrock Group and Bedrock Wealth Management. She is our resources and education specialist and has been with The Bedrock Group since 2020.

With over 20 years of experience in media, sales, and marketing, she now spends her days immersed in insurance industry trends, updates, and compliance, providing our clients with relevant topics.

For more articles and information,
You can follow her on LinkedIn
https://www.linkedin.com/in/jamiebedrockcmo/

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SECTION 1

WHAT ARE MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLANS (MEDIGAP)

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS (MEDIGAP)

Medicare Supplement Plans, also called Medigap, are insurance policies sold by private companies that help cover some of the out-of-pocket costs not paid by Original Medicare, such as copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles. These plans work alongside your Medicare Part A and Part B coverage, allowing you to see any doctor or specialist nationwide who accepts Medicare without the need for referrals.

Medigap plans offer predictable and consistent coverage, making them an excellent option for individuals who travel frequently or want the flexibility to choose their healthcare providers. While they don't include prescription drug coverage (you'll need a separate Part D plan for that), Medigap plans offer peace of mind by reducing surprise medical bills and helping you better manage your healthcare expenses.



What Are Medicare Supplement Plans (Medigap)?

- Help cover Original Medicare's gaps (Part A & B)
- Predictable monthly premiums
- No networks – see any provider nationwide that accepts Medicare
- Often includes foreign travel emergency coverage
- No drug coverage – separate Part D plan required

SECTION 2

WHAT IS MEDICARE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE (PART C)

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MEDICARE ADVANTAGE (PART C)

Medicare Advantage Plans are also known as Medicare Part C and is an all-in-one alternative to Original Medicare offered by private insurance companies approved by Medicare. These plans combine your Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and Medicare Part B (medical insurance) into a single plan, and most often times comes with Part D (prescription drug coverage). Medicare Advantage plans often come with additional benefits, such as dental, vision, hearing and wellness programs not covered by Original Medicare. While they have low or no monthly premiums, they utilize a pay-as-you-go model with an annual maximum out-of-pocket expense.

Medicare Advantage becomes ideal for those seeking to bundle coverage with added benefits. They offer PPO or HMO options for individuals who prefer not to stay within a specific network of doctors.



What Is Medicare Advantage (Part C)?

- An all-in-one alternative to Original Medicare
- Plans often include Part A, B, and D
- May offer extra benefits (dental, vision, hearing, fitness)
- Lower monthly premiums (sometimes $0)
- You must use a provider network (HMO or PPO)
- Plans vary by county and provider

SECTION 3

COMPARISON CHART

Feature	Medicare Supplement (Medigap)	Medicare Advantage (Part C)
Doctor Access	Any Medicare Provider Nationwide	In-Network or Out with HMO/PPO Plans
Premiums	Higher Monthly Premiums which increase annually	Low or $0 Monthly Premiums
Out-of-Pocket Costs	Low and predicable with monthly premium	Pay-as-you-go with Annual Max out-of-pocket
Drug Coverage?	No - need a standalone Part D Plan	Yes, usually includes Part D
Referrals Needed?	No	Sometimes, yes
Extra Benefits - vision, hearing, dental, etc.	No	Yes
Travel Coverage	Often, yes	Covers Emergency

How to Decide Which Plan is Right for You?

- Prefer predictable costs = Medigap
- Frequent Travel (Snow Bird?) = Medigap
- Travel only for vacations = Medicare Advantage
- Complex or ongoing Medicare Needs = Medigap
- Lower or no monthly premiums = Medicare Advantage
- Wellness benefits and hearing, vision, and dental = Medicare Advantage
- Cap on out-of-pocket expenses = Medicare Advantage

The list is vast, but Medicare plans are not one-size-fits-all. The only way to know for sure is to utilize an advocate. We can help by pairing you with a licensed local agent who would be happy to come to you. You can schedule your appointment by clicking **here**.

SECTION 4

BONUS TIPS

BONUS TIPS

1

Know Your Enrollment Windows

- Your Medigap Open Enrollment Period lasts for 6 months starting the month you're 65 and enrolled in Part B. During this time, you can enroll in any Medigap plan without medical underwriting – a one-time opportunity.
- Medicare Advantage plans are available when you first enroll, and you can switch annually during the Annual Enrollment Period (Oct 15 – Dec 7).

2

Consider Your Health Now & Later

- If you're in good health now but want long-term flexibility, Medigap may be a smart investment while you're guaranteed acceptance.
- If you're healthy and cost-conscious, Medicare Advantage could work now — but know that switching to Medigap later may require health underwriting.

3

Look Beyond Monthly Premiums

- Medicare Advantage often has lower premiums (sometimes $0), but Medigap plans may save money long term if you need frequent medical care.
- Factor in copays, coinsurance, drug costs, and the maximum out-of-pocket limit for Advantage plans.

4

Check Your Doctors and Hospitals

- If you want to keep your current doctors, ask if they accept the plan you're considering. Medigap offers more freedom, while Advantage plans often require staying in-network.

BONUS TIPS

5

Travel Plans Matter

- If you travel frequently or live in more than one state during the year, Medigap offers nationwide coverage. Advantage plans are geographically limited.

6

Compare Drug Coverage Carefully

- Medigap doesn’t include prescription drug coverage — you'll need a separate Part D plan. Many Medicare Advantage plans include built-in drug coverage, but formularies and pharmacy networks vary.

7

Use a Trusted Medicare Advisor

- Plans, networks, and costs can vary by location. A licensed agent can help you compare options specific to your area and health needs — at no cost to you.

8

Schedule Your Appointment Today

- At The Bedrock Group, we have been around since 2018 and have expanded from New Albany, Indiana to 48 states nationwide.
- We connect you with a licensed local advisor in your area who knows your town, local doctors, and your specific needs.

RESOURCES

At The Bedrock Group, our commitment is to ensuring a seamless transition into Medicare while guiding you through your retirement journey. You can explore any of the FREE resources provided below to help you reach your destination. Click any of the items below.

The Comprehensive Guide to Turning 65

More Guides, Checklists, + Cheatsheets

Seminars / Events

Schedule Appointment

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READY TO MEET US?

We're here to guide you through it all—Medicare during retirement and life insurance too. We're happy to come to you. Schedule your appointment now, and we'll connect you with a licensed advisor in your area.

G O T O :

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