

2011 Medigap and Medicare Advantage: Side-by-Side Comparisons

Medigap (Medicare Supplement Policies)	Medicare Advantage (HMO, PPO, PFFS, SNP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically have higher monthly premiums than a Medicare Advantage Plan (average cost for a 65 year old is \$128/month).* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically have a lower monthly premium than a Medigap (average monthly cost \$65/month).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans are available that can cover all out-of-pocket costs for Medicare-approved services. Standardized benefits can be viewed in document <i>Choosing a Medigap</i>: www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/02110.pdf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will have out-of-pocket costs for Medicare approved services and you must read the Summary of Benefits to determine these out-of-pocket costs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can see any doctor, provider and hospital that accepts Medicare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must check with all your doctors, providers and hospitals to see if they accept your Medicare Advantage Plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is "portable" and can be used in any state or U.S. territory. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicare Advantage Plans will cover emergencies outside of your "area"; typically services provided outside your area are considered "out-of-network" and will have higher costs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will need to consider a Medicare Part D drug plan for drug coverage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicare Advantage Plans can include Part D coverage. Could also include limited vision, dental and/or hearing benefits.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically you can enroll in a Medigap when you are new to Medicare Part B. Outside this period the plan does not have to accept your application. (7 additional "guarantee issue" periods are listed in document <i>Choosing a Medigap</i> (see above link). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may enroll in a Medicare Advantage Plan when you are new to Medicare and during the Annual Open Enrollment Period. More information available: www.medicare.gov

*Cost average for all Medigap Plans, age 65 (1/1/11)



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