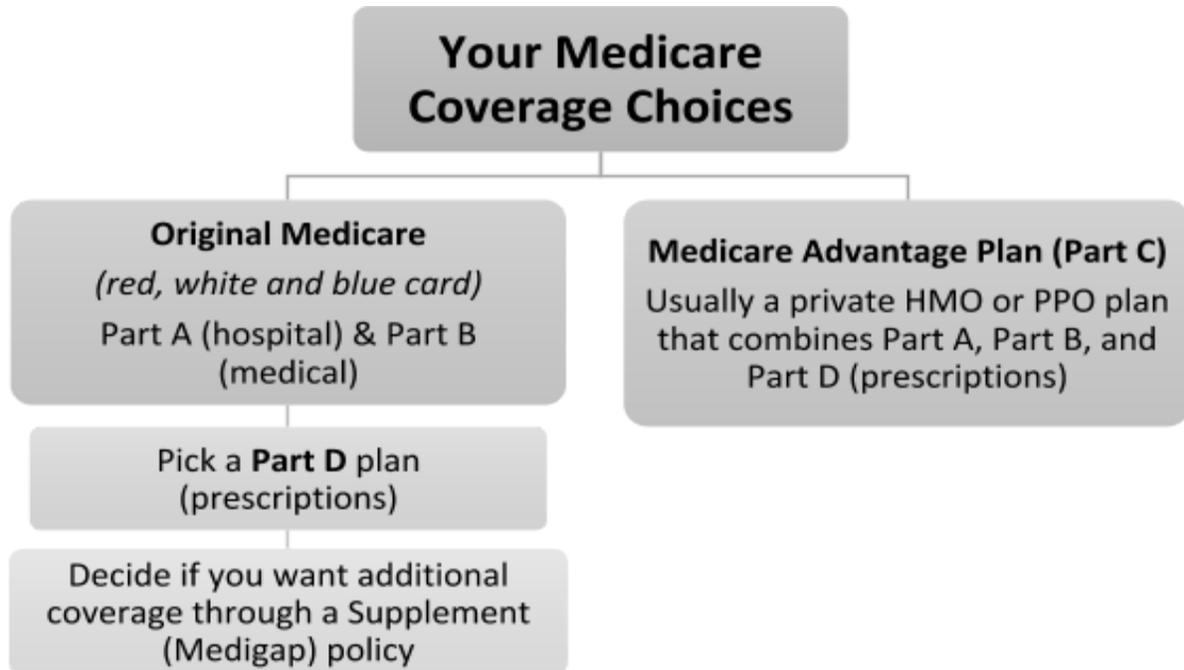




# Medicare Advantage Plans & Supplement/Medigap Policies



**Part C** gives you the option to have private coverage for your Medicare benefits through Medicare Advantage plans, which are offered by private insurance companies that have a contract with Medicare. When you enroll in an Advantage plan, the insurer takes care of your Part A and Part B benefits, and typically Part D as well. Advantage plans may offer additional benefits, not covered by original Medicare, including some hearing, vision, and/or dental benefits. Rather than choosing an Advantage plan, **some beneficiaries instead choose to get a Medigap or Supplemental insurance policy** to help with their out-of-pocket costs.

## Supplements vs. Advantage Plans

*There are pros and cons to each option and coverage choice is a personal decision! To enroll in either an Advantage Plan or a Supplement, you **must** have both Medicare Parts A & B.*

### Supplements

- Supplements Original Medicare
- Same benefits across companies
- Generally no network limitations
- Medicare pays first, then supplement, and then you pay any remaining costs
- Only covers expenses covered by Medicare
  
- Tend to be more expensive
- Age and tobacco rating
- May have medical underwriting

### Advantage Plans

- Replaces Original Medicare
- Benefits vary
- Generally has a network
- Plan pays, and then you pay remaining co-pays or co-insurances
- Can cover additional services, including vision, hearing and dental
- Tend to be less expensive
- No age or tobacco ratings
- No medical underwriting

## Supplement/Medigap Insurance Policies

Supplement policies are organized and sold by Plan levels. This is helpful in comparing plans because a Plan G policy from one company is the same as a Plan G policy from another company. Some companies do not sell policies at all levels, but they must offer at least a Plan A policy.

Benefits Included	Plan A	Plan B	Plan D	Plan G	Plan K	Plan L	Plan M	Plan N
Core benefits	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓	✓*
Skilled nursing facility			✓	✓	✓* (50%)	✓* (75%)	✓	✓
Part A deductible		✓	✓	✓	✓* (50%)	✓* (75%)	✓* (50%)	✓
Part B deductible								
Part B excess charge (100%)				✓				
Foreign travel			✓	✓			✓	✓
Out-of-pocket annual limit					\$6,220 in 2021	\$3,110 in 2021	*Limits apply	

**The Supplement/Medigap Open Enrollment Period is a one-time six-month period when a Medicare beneficiary first enrolls in Medicare Part B.** As long as you apply during this period, you cannot be turned down for coverage, regardless of health status, claims, or medical condition(s).

- **Policies must be sold guaranteed renewable.** They cannot be cancelled due to increasing age or change in health. They can, however, be cancelled due to late payment or false statements made on the initial application.
- If you are receiving Medicare due to disability, you will pay the highest premium allowed before age 65. **When you turn 65, you have a second open enrollment** opportunity to seek out and receive the same premium rate charged to people at age 65.

## Trying Out Supplements and Advantage Plans

As a Medicare beneficiary, you have some trial options. When you first qualify for Medicare, due to turning 65, and join a Medicare Advantage plan, you have a trial period. You can drop that Advantage plan within the first 12 months and get a Medicare Supplement with guaranteed issue and with no pre-existing wait period. When you first purchase a Supplement policy, you have a free-look period of 30 days. During that time, you can cancel your policy and will be refunded your full premium.

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