

# Medicare Advantage Fact Sheet

## What is a Medicare Advantage Plan?

Medicare Advantage is an alternative to Original Medicare and supplement coverage. Medicare Advantage Plans are also referred to as Medicare Health Plans or Part C. Medicare Part C/Medicare Advantage Plans are offered by private insurance companies.



## What do Medicare Advantage Plans cover?

With a Medicare Advantage plan, you receive all of your needed coverage in one plan. Medicare Advantage Plans cover the same services Part A (inpatient) and Part B (outpatient) cover. Most plans also include drug coverage (Part D). Some plans offer extra benefits, like dental or vision.

## How much do Medicare Advantage Plans cost?

**Monthly Premiums:** All Medicare Advantage Plan enrollees must **continue to pay the Medicare Part B premium, \$170.10**. Medicare Advantage Plans may also charge an additional premium which will vary based on the plan. **Additional Premiums range from \$0 - \$125.**

**Deductibles/Copays:** Medicare Advantage Plans can have a deductible up to \$1,000 per year, depending on the plan. With a Medicare Advantage plan you will owe a copay for each service each time you receive it. For Example: **Doctor's Visit - \$10\***, **Specialist - \$40\***, **Outpatient Surgery - \$300\***, **Inpatient Hospital Stay - up to \$1,750 per stay\***. **Other copays will apply.**

**Out-of-Pocket Maximum:** All Medicare Advantage plans have an out-of-pocket limit. This is the maximum a person can spend on medical expenses for the year. Once the out-of-pocket amount is reached, the plan covers 100% of cost. Each plan determines their specific out-of-pocket limit. Prescription drug costs never count towards this dollar amount.

### Premium Cost:

Medicare Part A -	\$0
Medicare Part B -	\$170.10
Medicare Advantage -	\$26*
<b>Monthly Premiums</b>	<b>\$196.10*</b>

### Out-of-Pocket Costs\*:

Inpatient Care -	Up to \$1,750* per hospital stay
Outpatient Care -	\$10* Doctor, \$40* Specialist, \$300* Outpatient Surgery
Out-of-Pocket -	\$3,000-11,300* out-of-pocket maximum
Drug Coverage -	\$0-\$480 deductible plus copays for medications

\*These prices are an average. Price will depend on the plan and company selected.

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## Who is eligible for a Medicare Advantage Plan?

Medicare Advantage Plans accept all Medicare beneficiaries, including those on Medicare due to disability and those with End-Stage Renal Disease (kidney failure). You must first have Medicare Part A and Part B in order to join a Medicare Advantage Plan. Your options will vary depending on where you live. Some counties in Nebraska do NOT have these plans as an option.

## When can I get a Medicare Advantage Plan?

You can join a Medicare Advantage Plan when you first begin Medicare. If you work past age 65 and delay Medicare, you can choose a Medicare Advantage Plan when you retire.

Medicare Advantage plans are a one year commitment. Each year the plan can change costs and coverage. Since the plan can change its benefits you also get the chance to make changes. Every year, between October 15 and December 7, you get the opportunity to review Medicare Advantage Plan options. If you enroll in a new plan during this period, it will take effect January 1 of the following year.

On January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, if you are currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you may elect to enroll into a different Medicare Advantage Plan or disenroll from the current Medicare Advantage Plan and return to Original Medicare with a drug plan. This may be done between January 1—March 31. The change takes effect the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the following month.

## Is there anything else to consider when choosing a Medicare Advantage Plan?

**Provider Choice:** Medicare Advantage plans are sold by private insurance companies. This means that you must see doctors and other healthcare providers that accept that particular insurance plan. Prior to enrolling, be sure to check with the Advantage Plan to ensure that your providers are in the plan's network.

**Supplements:** Medicare Supplements are an alternative option to a Medicare Advantage Plan. You should never have both a Medicare Supplement and a Medicare Advantage Plan. The two options will not work together. Choose the option that best meets your needs.

## How do I sign up for a Medicare Advantage Plan?

Contact the Nebraska SHIP for a comparison of Medicare Advantage Plan options in your area. Once you have selected a plan, SHIP can assist you in enrolling.

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**1-800-234-7119 - [www.doi.nebraska.gov/SHIP](http://www.doi.nebraska.gov/SHIP)**

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