

A free book from



# HOW TO PICK A MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLAN

A GUIDE TO CHOOSING A MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT  
INSURANCE PLAN THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

-2017-

## Medicare Supplement Goes by Several Names:

Medicare Supplement  
Medicare Supplemental Insurance  
Medigap  
Medigap Insurance  
Medigap Plan  
Medigap Policy

# Medicare Supplement Plan

A Medicare Supplement plan provides additional health coverage for people with Medicare. The plan pays for some of the healthcare costs that Original Medicare doesn't cover (like copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles).

It is also known as a “Medigap” plan because it helps to fill the **gaps** in healthcare costs.

This guide to Medicare Supplement will walk you through what it is; what you need to know; what your options are; how to find the right coverage; and how to buy a plan.

# Table of Contents

---

# Medicare and Medigap: “Parts” Versus “Plans”

Throughout this Medicare Supplement guide, we’ll refer to “parts” and “plans”. These two words are **not** interchangeable and they refer to two different things.

**Parts:** Medicare is the federal social insurance program that provides health insurance to people ages 65 years and older; it is made up of four parts.

**Plans:** Medicare Supplement (“Medigap”) comes in 11 different plans from which you can choose. Each plan provides a different level of additional coverage to support your Medicare costs.

## Medicare: Parts

**Medicare Part A:** Provides coverage for some hospital costs. When combined with Part B, the two together are known as “Original Medicare”. Part A is provided by the federal government.

**Medicare Part B:** Provides coverage for some medical costs (doctors and outpatient care). When combined with Part A, the two together are known as “Original Medicare”. Part B is provided by the federal government.

**Medicare Part C:** This is referred to as “Medicare Advantage”. Usually, people choose to have Parts A and B covered by the federal government. Medicare Part C allows you to get Part A & B coverage through a private insurance company.

**Medicare Part D:** Provides coverage for prescription drugs, and is provided through a private health insurer.

## Medigap: Plans

**Medigap Plans A to N:** Medicare Supplement plans are labeled with 10 different letters: A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L, M, and N. Each of these offer different benefits and are all provided by a private health insurer.

**Medigap Plan F:** While plans are distinguished by their letters, Plan F actually offers a high-deductible option. This means that, overall, you have 11 different Medicare Supplement plans from which you can choose.

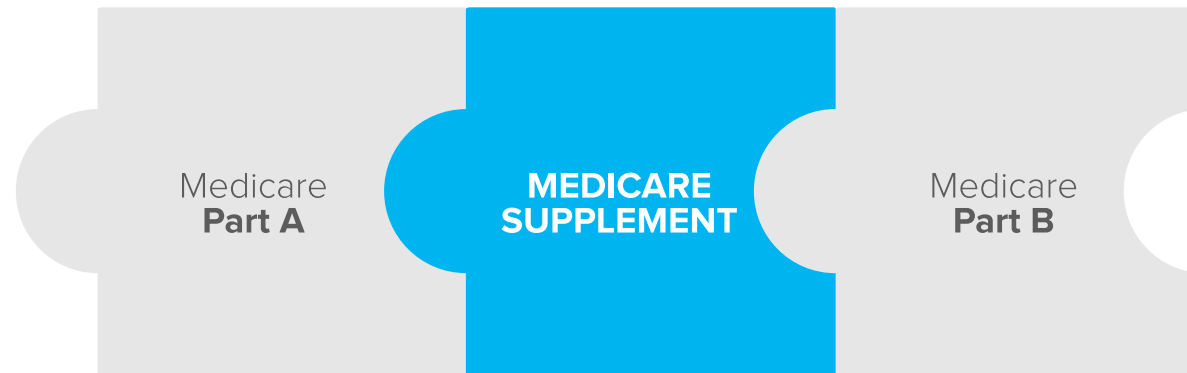
**Why Plans Aren’t Priced According to Letter Order:** Plans are lettered A to N, but the price for each of these plans don’t increase or decrease in relation to their order in the alphabet (so, you’ll find that Plan C is more expensive than Plan K). The reason for this: over time, the federal government has introduced new plans and removed older plans (for example, Plan E no longer exists).

# What Original Medicare Doesn't Cover

Original Medicare leaves significant coverage gaps, even when you are enrolled in Part A and Part B. Some of the important coverage gaps include:

<b>Medicare Part A Deductible + Medicare Part B Deductible</b>	Each year, you are responsible for paying the deductible before Original Medicare coverage begins. For 2017, the Part A and Part B deductibles are \$1,316 and \$183, respectively.
<b>Medicare Part A Coinsurance (for hospital visits and stays)</b>	Once you've paid the \$1,316 deductible, Medicare Part A covers only the first 60 days of care. After that, you are responsible for 20% of everything that Medicare covers. This can turn into tens of thousands of dollars for a hospital stay longer than 60 days.
<b>Medicare Part B Coinsurance (for doctor visits and medical equipment)</b>	Once you've paid the Medicare Part B deductible of \$183, you are responsible for 20% of everything that Medicare covers.
<b>Foreign Medical Care</b>	Original Medicare does not cover any healthcare costs outside of the US and its territories. If you are hospitalized while traveling overseas, you are responsible for all the costs. Certain Medigap plan types provide coverage for this.

# Why Medicare Supplement Insurance?



Medicare is a federal program that provides millions of Americans with health coverage. The program gives affordable benefits to people aged 65 years and older (as well as others who meet special criteria), but there are limitations on those benefits.

As we age, our household earnings become more fixed, while our healthcare needs (and costs) increase. Medicare Part A (which provides hospital insurance) and Medicare Part B (which provides medical insurance) don't cover everything - expenses not covered by them can actually lead to personal bankruptcy. That's where [Medicare supplement health insurance](#) comes in.

## **Medicare Supplement (or “Medigap”) Plans:**

- Help pay for healthcare expenses beyond what Original Medicare (Part A & Part B) covers.
- Depending on the policy, they'll cover copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, and emergency care when traveling outside the U.S.
- Unless specified by the private insurer, Medigap plans pay 100% of covered expenses after Original Medicare pays its share.

Buying a Medicare Supplement plan can be a smart decision for both your health and your finances; however, finding and choosing a policy can be overwhelming. This guide will explain the plans available in most states and help you determine which is best for you.

# Medicare Supplement Must-Knows

- Unlike Original Medicare (Medicare Part A & Part B) which comes from the federal government, Medicare Supplement plans are sold by private companies.
- Medicare Supplement plans are standardized, meaning **all plans cover the same basic benefits**.
- Plans are labeled “A” through “N”. **Additional benefits** are provided under each of these plans. These additional benefits are also standardized. For example, all Plan A policies must provide the same additional benefits - the only difference between Plan A policies is the insurer and the price.

## What You Need to Know About Medicare Supplement / Medigap Plans



### You Must Have Original Medicare

You must have Medicare Part A and Part B to enroll in a Medicare Supplement plan. Medicare Supplement plans cannot be used with a Medicare Advantage policy (Medicare Part C).



### Individual Plans Only - Not a Family Plan

Medicare Supplement coverage is available only to individuals. You and your spouse must complete an individual application.



### Separate Payment from Original Medicare

You will pay a private insurance company for Medicare Supplement coverage. This payment is separate from your Medicare payment to the federal government.



### No Prescription Drug Coverage

Medicare Supplement plans sold after Jan. 1, 2006 do not include prescription drug coverage.

# Medicare Supplement Must-Knows



## Medicare Supplement Covers the Costs of Basic Medicare Benefits

**Covers:** Basic Medicare benefits (including Part A coinsurance, Part B coinsurance & copayment, hospital costs, hospice care, and preventative care). Additional benefits depending on the plan.

**Doesn't Cover:** Long-term care, dental, vision, hearing aid or other types of lifestyle bills typically are not covered.



## Medicare Supplement Plans Are Standardized for Easy Comparison

This makes it easier to compare options based on premium cost. Make sure you enroll in a Medicare Supplement plan from a company you trust - one with good financial strength and high-quality customer service.



## See Any Doctor That Takes Medicare

You can choose to see any doctor or healthcare provider that accepts Medicare. This is different from Medicare Advantage plans which, like HMOs or PPOs, have networks of healthcare providers (doctors, hospitals, and facilities) that you're limited to.

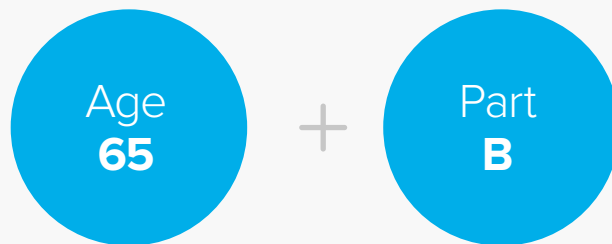


## Billing and Claims Are Coordinated with Medicare

The [billing between Original Medicare and Medigap plans](#) for covered Medicare services and products is automatically coordinated between Medicare and the insurance company. You will not have to file separate claims.



# When to Buy Medicare Supplement Insurance



Open enrollment to buy Medicare supplement begins when you're 1.) over the age of 65 **and** 2.) enrolled in Medicare Part B. Open enrollment is available for 6 months afterwards.

If you buy Medicare Supplement insurance during your [6-month Open Enrollment Period](#), then it automatically begins when you enroll in Medicare Part B for the first time. For many retirees, this is often when they turn 65. However, if you work past age 65, the clock starts whenever you elect to start your Part B coverage.

If you buy Medicare supplement insurance outside your Open Enrollment Period, you will be subject to “underwriting”. That means you can be denied coverage or charged more due to preexisting health conditions or due to your health history.

Once you have a standardized Medicare Supplement plan, it is guaranteed renewable, even if you have health problems. As long as you pay the premium, your policy cannot be cancelled.

# Which Medigap Plan Type Is Right for You?

Each of the different Medicare Supplement / Medigap plan types (Plan A to Plan N) provide different levels of Medicare Supplement benefits.

These benefits can include coverage of:

- Part A or Part B deductibles;
- Part A or B coinsurance;
- Hospice care coinsurance and copayments;
- Skilled nursing care (or post-hospitalization) coinsurance; or
- Foreign medical emergencies.

Plan types are standardized so that plans within each level **provide the same exact coverage**. The only difference is the carrier and the price. This means, for example, that all Plan A policies - regardless of the health insurance company - must provide the exact same benefits. This makes it easier for you to simply compare Plan A policies based on your favorite insurer and the price of the plan.

## Different Plan Types Provide Different Levels of Coverage



**Plan A** is the least comprehensive Medigap plan and generally the most budget-friendly.

**Plan F** is the most popular Medigap plan type and the most comprehensive in its coverage of Original Medicare's gaps. Because of its extensive coverage, it's generally the most expensive in terms of monthly premium cost.

F\* - Plan F has a high-deductible version, where you pay for Medicare costs up to an annual deductible. In 2017 it's \$2,200.

# Meet Plan A

Don't confuse Medigap Plan A with Medicare Part A. Part A is your regular Medicare hospital coverage. Plan A is a supplemental product.

If you want some extra coverage beyond what Original Medicare offers, Medicare Supplement Plan A provides the basics:

- Part A coinsurance and hospital costs up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted;
- Part B coinsurance or copayment;
- Your first three pints of blood; and
- Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment.

**Choose Plan A if:** You do not expect a lot of medical expenses and want to keep your Medicare supplement premiums low.

**Avoid Plan A if:** You require some extra healthcare. You may wind up paying more out-of-pocket with a Plan A policy.

**What's the premium cost?** It varies by carrier. Plans with less comprehensive coverage generally cost less; those with more comprehensive coverage will cost more. **Out-of-pocket costs** are typically lower for Medigap plans with more comprehensive coverage and higher for plans with less comprehensive coverage.

### Plan A Benefits

Part A coinsurance & hospital costs*	100%
Part B coinsurance or copayment	100%
Blood (first three pints)	100%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment 100	100%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance	-----
Part A deductible	-----
Part B deductible	-----
Part B excess charges	-----
Foreign travel emergency coverage**	-----

\* Up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted  
\*\* Up to plan limits

### Coverage Summary

**Basic Benefits**

Plan A provides supplemental coverage of basic Medicare benefits such as Medicare Part A coinsurance and hospital costs, Medicare Part B coinsurance & copayment, hospice care, and preventative care. Plan A is the most basic Medigap plan and that's reflected in its low monthly premium. This plan works for those looking for minimum coverage and who are able to pay out-of-pocket for Medicare costs as they arise.



# Meet Plan B

**Don't confuse Medigap Plan B with Medicare Part B. Part B is your regular Medicare medical coverage. Plan B is a supplemental product.**

Medicare Supplement Plan B is also fairly basic and is nearly identical to Plan A, but with a key difference: Plan B benefits include your Medicare Part A deductible. For 2017, the Part A deductible is \$1,316 per benefit period (that means you save \$1,316). <sup>(1)</sup>

**Choose Plan B if:** You anticipate few medical expenses but think the extra hospital coverage could come in handy. Again, premiums will likely be lower with Plan A than others, but unexpected medical care may cost you more out of pocket.

**Avoid Plan B if:** You think you still require extra healthcare. You may wind up paying more out-of-pocket with a Plan B policy.

**What's the premium cost?** It varies by carrier. Plans with less comprehensive coverage generally cost less; those with more comprehensive coverage will cost more. **Out-of-pocket costs** are typically lower for Medigap plans with more comprehensive coverage and higher for plans with less comprehensive coverage.

<sup>(1)</sup> [Medicare 2017 Costs at a Glance](#)

### Plan B Benefits

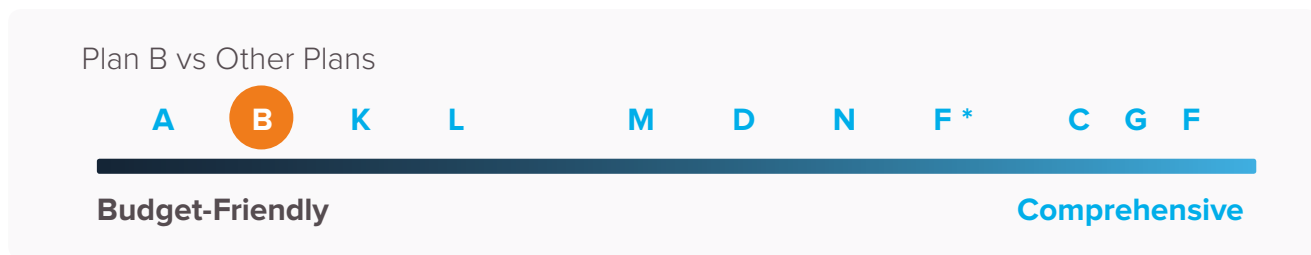
Part A coinsurance and hospital costs*	100%
Part B coinsurance or copayment	100%
Blood (first three pints)	100%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment	100%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance	-----
Part A deductible	100%
Part B deductible	-----
Part B excess charges	-----
Foreign travel emergency coverage**	-----

\* Up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted  
\*\* Up to plan limits

### Coverage Summary

Basic Benefits
100% Part A

Plan B provides supplemental coverage of basic Medicare benefits such as Medicare Part A coinsurance and hospital costs, Medicare Part B coinsurance and copayment, hospice care, and preventative care. In addition, it adds coverage for 100% of the Medicare Part A Deductible. Plan B is a lower-premium Medigap plan that is similar to Plan A, but it adds additional coverage for the Medicare Part A hospital deductible. It works for those looking for minimum coverage, and who are able to pay out-of-pocket for Medicare costs as they arise.



# Meet Plan C

Don't confuse Medigap Plan C with Medicare Part C. Part C is otherwise known as Medicare Advantage - a private plan that works in place of Original Medicare. Plan C is a product to supplement Original Medicare.

Part C picks up the costs of everything your Original Medicare plan doesn't cover, except for Medicare Part B excess charges\*. You won't have to pay a single Medicare Part A or Part B copayment or your share of coinsurance; Plan C takes care of it.

\*Part B excess charges apply when you use non-participating providers; these charges can be up to 15 percent over the amount non-participating providers are paid. (2)

**Choose Plan C if:** You want comprehensive coverage to help cut healthcare costs but you do not expect to accrue Part B excess charges.

**Avoid Plan C if:** You need support for Part B excess charges.

**What's the premium cost?** It varies by carrier. Plans with less comprehensive coverage generally cost less; those with more comprehensive coverage will cost more. **Out-of-pocket costs** are typically lower for Medigap plans with more comprehensive coverage and higher for plans with less comprehensive coverage.

(2) Medicare.gov. "Lower costs with assignment."

### Plan C Benefits

Part A coinsurance and hospital costs*	100%
Part B coinsurance or copayment	100%
Blood (first three pints)	100%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment	100%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance	100%
Part A deductible	100%
Part B deductible	100%
Part B excess charges	-----
Foreign travel emergency coverage**	80%

\* Up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted  
\*\* Up to plan limits

### Coverage Summary

Basic Benefits

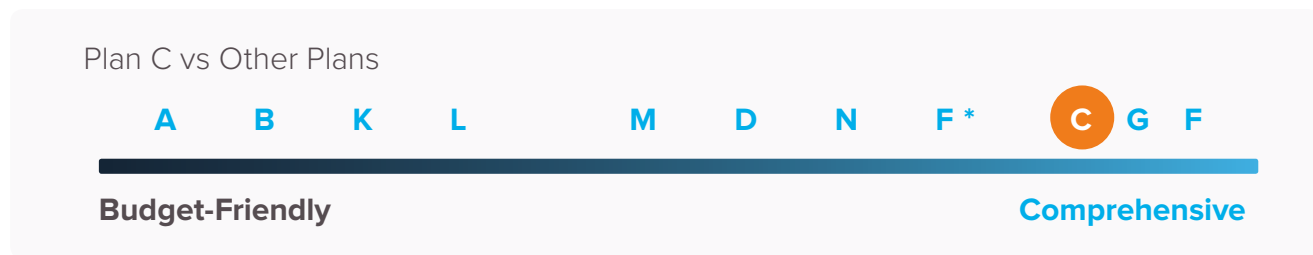
100% Part A

100% Part B

100% Nursing

Foreign Travel

Plan C provides supplemental coverage of basic Medicare benefits, 100% coverage of the Medicare Part A deductible, 100% of the Medicare Part B deductible, 100% of skilled nursing coinsurance, and some foreign travel emergency coverage. Plan C is a comprehensive Medigap plan that covers all Medicare-approved healthcare expenses. However, unlike the similar Plan F, it does not cover Medicare Part B excess charges that some non-participating physicians may bill over the Medicare rate.



# Meet Plan D

**Don't confuse Medigap Plan D with Medicare Part D. Part D is the Medicare prescription drug benefit which provides prescription drug coverage. Plan D is a product to supplement Original Medicare and doesn't include prescription drug coverage.**

Plan D provides coverage of basic Medicare benefits, 100% of the Medicare Part A deductible, 100% of the skilled nursing coinsurance, and some foreign travel emergency coverage. It does not cover the Medicare Part B deductible.

Plan D is one of the more comprehensive plan types, although it provides slightly fewer benefits than Plans C, G and F. The primary difference: Plan D doesn't cover the Part B deductible and Part B excess charges.

**Choose Plan D if:** You want fuller coverage but don't expect to visit the doctor often or don't require constant medicare services.

**Avoid Plan D if:** You require frequent trips to the doctor (and sometimes to non-participating providers) and need regular outpatient services.

**What's the premium cost?** It varies by carrier. Plan D will likely be more than Plans A and B, but should be less expensive than C, F and G.

### Plan D Benefits

Part A coinsurance and hospital costs*	100%
Part B coinsurance or copayment**	100%
Blood (first three pints)	100%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance	100%
Part A deductible	100%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment 100	100%
Part B deductible	-----
Part B excess charges	-----
Foreign travel emergency coverage***	80%

\* Up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted  
\*\* Up to plan limits

### Coverage Summary

Basic Benefits

100% Part A

100% Nursing

Foreign Travel

Plan D is one of the more comprehensive plans and covers many of the expense categories not covered by Original Medicare. It isn't as comprehensive as Plan C, Plan G or Plan F. In particular, it has gaps related to the Part B deductible of Original Medicare (non-hospital, Medicare-approved healthcare services ) which will matter if you visit the doctor often.



# Meet Plan F

The most popular Medicare Supplement plan, Plan F offers the most comprehensive coverage. Once Medicare pays its share of covered charges for hospital and doctor care, Plan F picks up 100% of the rest—the exception being foreign travel emergency coverage. With Plan F, your total out-of-pocket cost for covered hospital and doctor charges should be \$0\*.

\*You're still responsible for your insurance premiums.

**Choose Plan F if:** You want protection from high out-of-pocket costs associated with hospital and medical care. Plan F may be a good fit if you anticipate a lot of healthcare expenses or simply desire the peace of mind that comes with knowing you have the coverage should you need it.

**Avoid Plan F if:** You don't need comprehensive additional coverage and you don't want to pay high monthly premiums.

**What's the premium cost?** It varies by carrier. Plans with less comprehensive coverage generally cost less; those with more comprehensive coverage will cost more. **Out-of-pocket costs** are typically lower for Medigap plans with more comprehensive coverage and higher for plans with less comprehensive coverage. Plan F offers the most robust benefits, so is typically the most costly. High-deductible Plan F should have a lower monthly premium than traditional Plan F.

### Plan F Benefits

Part A coinsurance and hospital costs*	100%
Part B coinsurance or copayment	100%
Blood (first three pints)	100%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment	100%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance	100%
Part A deductible	100%
Part B deductible	100%
Part B excess charges	100%
Foreign travel emergency coverage**	80%

\* Up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted  
\*\* Up to plan limits

### Coverage Summary

Basic Benefits

100% Part A

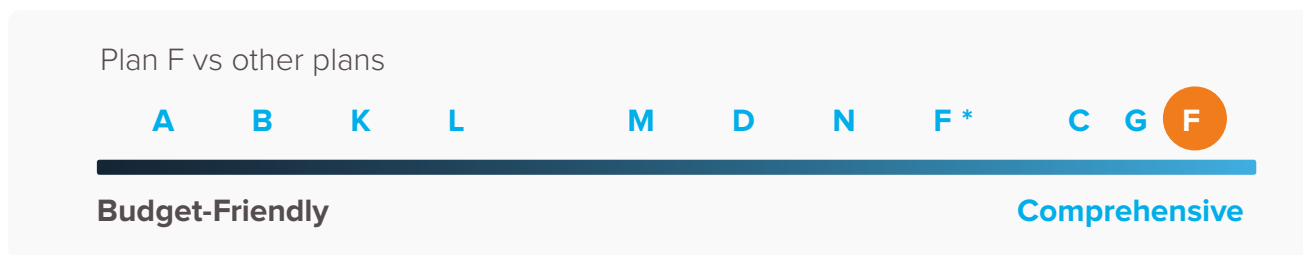
100% Part B

100% Nursing

Foreign Travel

Excess Part B

Plan F provides supplemental coverage of basic Medicare benefits, 100% of the Medicare Part A deductible, 100% of the Medicare Part B deductible, 100% of Part B excess, 100% of skilled nursing coinsurance, and some foreign travel emergency coverage. Plan F provides the most comprehensive coverage of all the standard Medicare Supplement plans. It covers 100% of all Medicare-approved charges as well as any excess charges.



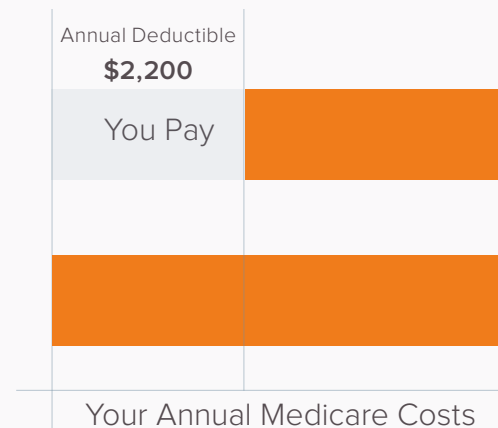
# High-Deductible Plan F

Offers the same benefits as regular Plan F with some exceptions:

- For each year, you must pay for Medicare costs up to an annual deductible - which is \$2,200 in 2017 (3);
- Once you reach the deductible on a high-deductible Plan F, then it is the same exact coverage as a regular Plan F;
- High-deductible Plan F will have lower premiums than regular Plan F; however, it also will cover less.

Choose this variation if you're looking for comprehensive coverage on the high-end, but can cover the routine costs on your own. Don't compare High-Deductible Plan F options vs. Regular Plan F. It's not an apples-to-apples comparison. You should compare H-D Plan F with other H-D Plan F plans.

High-Deductible  
**PLAN F**  
VS  
Regular  
**PLAN F**



(3) Medicare.gov "How to Compare Medigap Policies."



# Meet Plan G

Plan G looks a lot like Plan F. It’s nearly as popular, too. The key difference between the two is Plan G doesn’t include your Medicare Part B deductible.

**Choose Plan G if:** You want robust supplemental coverage but don’t mind paying your Part B deductible, which amounts to \$183 per year. (4) Beyond that—and your share of foreign travel emergency coverage, should you need it—you will pay \$0 for medical expenses covered by original Medicare and Plan G.

**Avoid Plan G if:** You don’t need comprehensive additional coverage and you don’t want to pay high monthly premiums.

**What’s the premium cost?** It varies by carrier. Plans with less comprehensive coverage generally cost less; those with more comprehensive coverage will cost more. **Out-of-pocket costs** are typically lower for Medigap plans with more comprehensive coverage and higher for plans with less comprehensive coverage. Plan G will be more expensive than other Medigap plans because it offers more comprehensive coverage; however, because it does not include Part B deductible benefits, it will cost less in monthly premium than Part F.

(4) Medicare.gov. “Medicare 2017 Costs at A Glance.”

### Plan G Benefits

Part A coinsurance and hospital costs*	100%
Part B coinsurance or copayment	100%
Blood (first three pints)	100%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment	100%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance	100%
Part A deductible	100%
Part B deductible	-----
Part B excess charges	100%
Foreign travel emergency coverage**	80%

\* Up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted  
\*\* Up to plan limits

### Coverage Summary

Basic Benefits

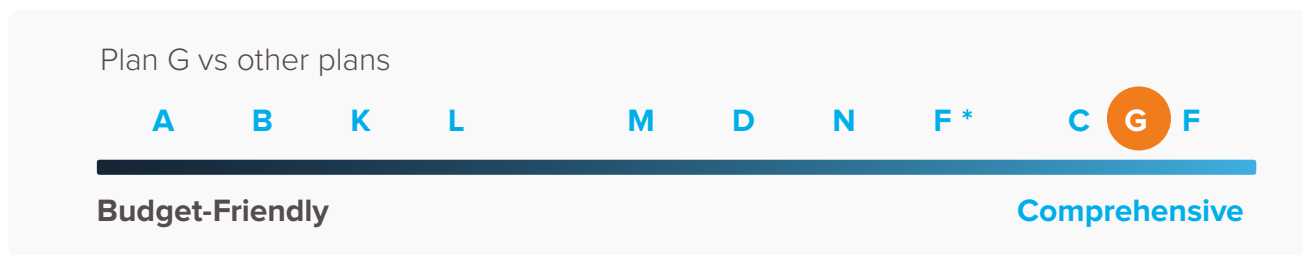
100% Part A

100% Nursing

Foreign Travel

Excess Part B

Plan G provides supplemental coverage of basic Medicare benefits, 100% of the Medicare Part A deductible, 100% of skilled nursing coinsurance, and some foreign travel emergency coverage. Plan G provides one of the most comprehensive coverages, similar to Plan F. However, Plan G members will still pay an annual Part B deductible for non-hospital, Medicare-approved healthcare services.



# Meet Plan K

Plan K splits the bill on covered services. It pays Medicare Part A coinsurance and hospital costs (up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted) at 100 percent, then covers the following at 50 percent:

- Part B coinsurance or copayment;
- Your first three pints of blood;
- Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment;
- Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance; and
- Part A deductible.

Plus, there's a cap on what you'll owe. If you exceed Plan K's \$5,120 out-of-pocket spending limit, the plan pays for additional covered expenses.

**Choose Plan K if:** You want lower monthly premiums and some cost-sharing to help alleviate out-of-pocket healthcare expenses.

**Avoid Plan K if:** You're looking for more hospital coverage and want to further limit your out-of-pocket costs.

**What's the premium cost?** It varies by carrier. Plans with less comprehensive coverage generally cost less; those with more comprehensive coverage will cost more. **Out-of-pocket costs** are typically lower for Medigap plans with more comprehensive coverage and higher for plans with less comprehensive coverage. Plan K tends to have the lowest monthly premiums.

### Plan K Benefits

Part A coinsurance and hospital costs*	100%
Part B coinsurance or copayment	50%
Blood (first three pints)	50%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment	50%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance	50%
Part A deductible	50%
Part B deductible	-----
Part B excess charges	-----
Foreign travel emergency coverage**	-----
<b>Out-of-pocket limit</b>	<b>\$5,120</b>

\* Up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted  
\*\* Up to plan limits

### Coverage Summary

Basic Benefits

50% Part A

50% Part B

50% Nursing

\$5,120 Limit

Plan K provides supplemental coverage of basic Medicare benefits, 50% of the Medicare Part A deductible and 50% of the skilled nursing coinsurance. Unlike other Medicare Supplement plans, you will share in the both the Medicare Part A and Part B costs, up to the annual \$5,120 out-of-pocket limit. Plan K has lower monthly premiums, but you would pay a portion of your Medicare covered costs up to a certain out-of-pocket (OOP) limit. Once you reach that limit, Plan K will pay 100% of all Medicare-approved services.



# Meet Plan L

Plan L picks up a portion of covered expenses, too, but picks up more than Plan K. It pays Medicare Part A coinsurance and hospital costs (up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted) at 100 percent, then covers the following at 75 percent:

- Part B coinsurance or copayment;
- Your first three pints of blood;
- Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment;
- Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance; and
- Part A deductible.

Again, there's a cap on what you'll owe. If you exceed Plan L's \$2,560 out-of-pocket spending limit, the plan pays for additional covered expenses.

**Choose Plan L if:** You still want lower monthly premiums but prefer a little added cost-sharing to help alleviate out-of-pocket healthcare expenses.

**Avoid Plan L if:** You're looking for full hospital coverage, want to minimize out-of-pocket costs, and you can afford a higher monthly premium.

**What's the premium cost?** It varies by carrier. Plans with less comprehensive coverage generally cost less; those with more comprehensive coverage will cost more. **Out-of-pocket costs** are typically lower for Medigap plans with more comprehensive coverage and higher for plans with less comprehensive coverage. Plan L tends to have the second-lowest monthly premiums.

### Plan L Benefits

Part A coinsurance and hospital costs*	100%
Part B coinsurance or copayment	75%
Blood (first three pints)	75%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment	75%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance	75%
Part A deductible	75%
Part B deductible	-----
Part B excess charges	-----
Foreign travel emergency coverage**	-----
Out-of-pocket limit	<b>\$2,560</b>

\* Up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted  
\*\* Up to plan limits

### Coverage Summary

Basic Benefits

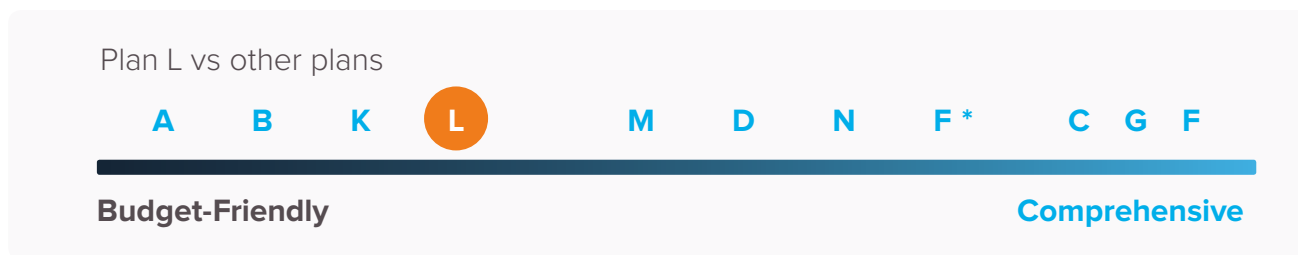
75% Part A

75% Part B

75% Nursing

\$2,560 Limit

Plan L provides supplemental coverage of basic Medicare benefits, 75% of the Medicare Part A deductible and 75% of the skilled nursing coinsurance. Unlike other Medicare Supplement plans, you will share in both the Medicare Part A and Part B costs, up to the annual \$2,560 out-of-pocket limit. Once you reach that limit, Plan L will pay 100% of all Medicare-approved services.



# Meet Plan M

Plan M provides coverage of basic Medicare benefits, 50% of the Medicare Part A deductible, 100% of the skilled nursing coinsurance, and foreign travel emergency coverage. It does not cover the Medicare Part B deductible.

Plan M is very similar to Plan D, except that it only covers 50% of the Part A deductible (Plan D covers 100% of it). It means that you would be responsible for up to \$658 of the total \$1,316 Part A deductible for 2017. This amount resets each year.

Plan M is one of the more budget-friendly plan types.

**Choose Plan M if:** You are looking for budget-friendly supplemental coverage, but want to get fuller coverage than Plans A, B, K and L.

**Avoid Plan M if:** You're looking to get all of your Medicare Part A deductible covered. Also, if you require frequent trips to the doctor (and sometimes to non-participating providers) and need regular outpatient services, Plan M isn't right for you.

**What's the premium cost?** It varies by carrier. Plans with less comprehensive coverage generally cost less; those with more comprehensive coverage will cost more. **Out-of-pocket costs** are typically lower for Medigap plans with more comprehensive coverage and higher for plans with less comprehensive coverage. Plan M will likely cost more than Plans A, B K and L, but should be less expensive than the comprehensive types such as C, F and G.

### Plan M Benefits

Part A coinsurance and hospital costs*	100%
Part B coinsurance or copayment**	100%
Blood (first three pints)	100%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance	100%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment 100	100%
Part A deductible	50%
Part B deductible	-----
Part B excess charges	-----
Foreign travel emergency coverage***	80%

\* Up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted  
\*\* Up to plan limits

### Coverage Summary

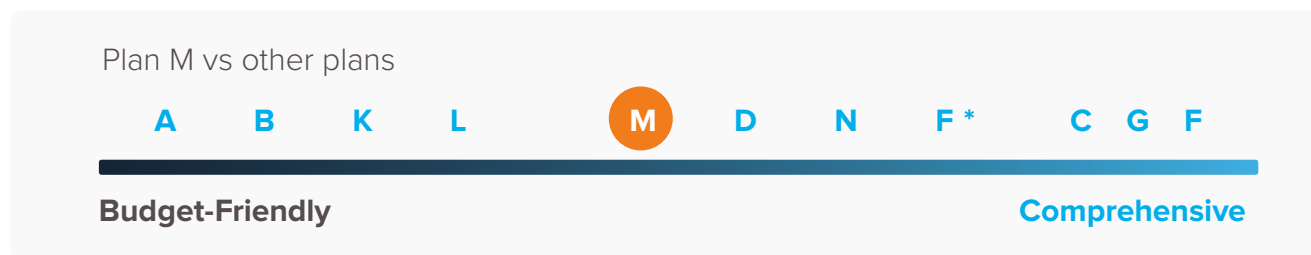
Basic Benefits

50% Part A

100% Nursing

Foreign Travel

Plan M provides supplemental coverage of basic Medicare benefits, 50% of the Medicare Part A Deductible, 100% of skilled nursing coinsurance, and some foreign travel emergency coverage. Plan M covers all basic Medicare benefits with different cost-sharing amounts for other Medicare services. It is one of the less costly plan types. Plan M pays 50% of the Medicare Part A deductible but does not pay the Medicare Part B deductible or excess charges.



# Meet Plan N

Plan N combines comparably low premiums with fairly comprehensive coverage. It does not include benefits for your Medicare Part B deductible or Part B excess charges. However, it covers everything else at 100 percent—the exception being foreign travel emergency coverage, which is covered at 80 percent.

**Choose Plan N if:** You still want lower monthly premiums but prefer a little added cost-sharing to help alleviate out-of-pocket healthcare expenses.

**Avoid Plan N if:** You require frequent trips to the doctor (and sometimes to non-participating providers) and need regular outpatient services.

**What's the premium cost?** It varies by carrier. Plans with less comprehensive coverage generally cost less; those with more comprehensive coverage will cost more. **Out-of-pocket costs** are typically lower for Medigap plans with more comprehensive coverage and higher for plans with less comprehensive coverage. In terms of premium and coverage, Plan N tends to fall somewhere in the middle.

### Plan N Benefits

Part A coinsurance and hospital costs*	100%
Part B coinsurance or copayment**	100%
Blood (first three pints)	100%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment	100%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance	100%
Part A deductible	100%
Part B deductible	-----
Part B excess charges	-----
Foreign travel emergency coverage***	80%

\* Up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are exhausted  
\*\* Up to plan limits

### Coverage Summary

Basic Benefits

100% Part A

100% Nursing

Foreign Travel

Plan N provides supplemental coverage of basic Medicare benefits (subject to \$20 office copay and \$50 ER copay), 100% of the Medicare Part A deductible, 100% of skilled nursing coinsurance, and some foreign travel emergency coverage. Plan N covers basic Medicare benefits and has different cost-sharing amounts for other services. Plan N does not pay the Medicare Part B deductible or excess charges.



# Putting It All Together

The chart compares the most commonly available Medicare supplement insurance plans. Unless otherwise specified, benefits are covered at 100 percent.

Ultimately, it's all about striking the balance between affordability and benefits. You will need to assess your financial situation and healthcare needs and select a plan with reasonable monthly premiums and benefits that reduce out-of-pocket spending.

Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) Plans

Benefits	A	B	C	D	F	G	K	L	M	N
Medicare Part A coinsurance and hospital costs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medicare Part B coinsurance or copayment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	50%	75%	✓	✓
Blood (first 3 pints)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	50%	75%	✓	✓
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	50%	75%	✓	✓
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	50%	75%	✓	✓
Part A deductible	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	50%	75%	50%	✓
Part B deductible	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Part B excess charges	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Foreign travel emergency (up to plan limit)	✗	✗	80%	80%	80%	80%	✗	✗	80%	80%
Medicare Part B preventative care coinsurance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Out of Pocket Limit	
\$5,120 in 2017	\$2,560 in 2017

\* Plan F also offers a high-deductible plan. If you choose this option, this means you must pay for Medicare-covered costs up to the deductible amount of \$2,200 in 2017 before your Medigap plan pays anything.

\*\* After you meet your out-of-pocket yearly limit and your yearly Part B deductible, the Medigap plan pays 100% of covered services for the rest of the calendar year.

\*\*\* Plan N pays 100% of the Part B coinsurance, except for a copayment of up to \$20 for some office visits and up to a \$50 copayment for emergency room visits that don't result in inpatient admission.

# Where to Buy Medicare Supplement Insurance

## Who Sells This Coverage

You buy Medicare Supplement insurance plans (Medigap plans) through a health insurance agent, broker or directly from an insurance company. Unlike Original Medicare (Medicare Parts A & B), you do not buy it from the government.

## Where to Buy

- You can get individual quotes from insurance companies one by one.
- You can get multiple quotes from licensed brokers who represent multiple insurance companies.
- **You may also use websites such as HealthCare.com to shop for and compare multiple Medicare Supplement plans from various insurers.**

### If you want to talk to someone

If you need help selecting a Medicare Supplement plan or have questions about Medicare Supplement insurance, you can also

**CALL (877) 626-1943**

to talk to a licensed agent from one of HealthCare.com's health insurance partners.

A free ebook from



Copyright 2017 HealthCare, Inc.



---

## References

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. 2016 Choosing a Medigap Policy: A Guide to Health Insurance for People with Medicare.

Retrieved from <https://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/02110-Medicare-Medigap.guide.pdf>

---



Visit us at  
**HealthCare.com**