

Medicare 101: Understanding Your Choices

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What is Medicare?



- Health insurance for three groups of people:
 - 65 and older
 - Under 65 with certain disabilities
 - Any age with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

Decide how you want to get your 2020 Medicare coverage

ORIGINAL MEDICARE

OR

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN

Part A Hospital Insurance

No Premium Most People
\$1,408 Deductible Per
Hospital Stay
Skilled nursing, hospice, etc.

Part B Medical Insurance

\$144.60/mo. Basic Premium
\$198 Deductible per Year
20% coinsurance

Part C

Combines Parts A & B
And usually Part D
Still pay Part B Premium of \$144.60/mo.
All health care through one company
Premiums/Deductibles/Copays Vary
Usually network of doctors

Medigap/ Supplemental Insurance

Covers Parts A & B
Copays/Deductibles
Premiums Vary
Standard Plans A-N

Part D Prescription Drug Coverage

Premiums Vary
Up to \$435 Deductible/Year
Drug copays

Part C Plans
usually include
Part D drugs

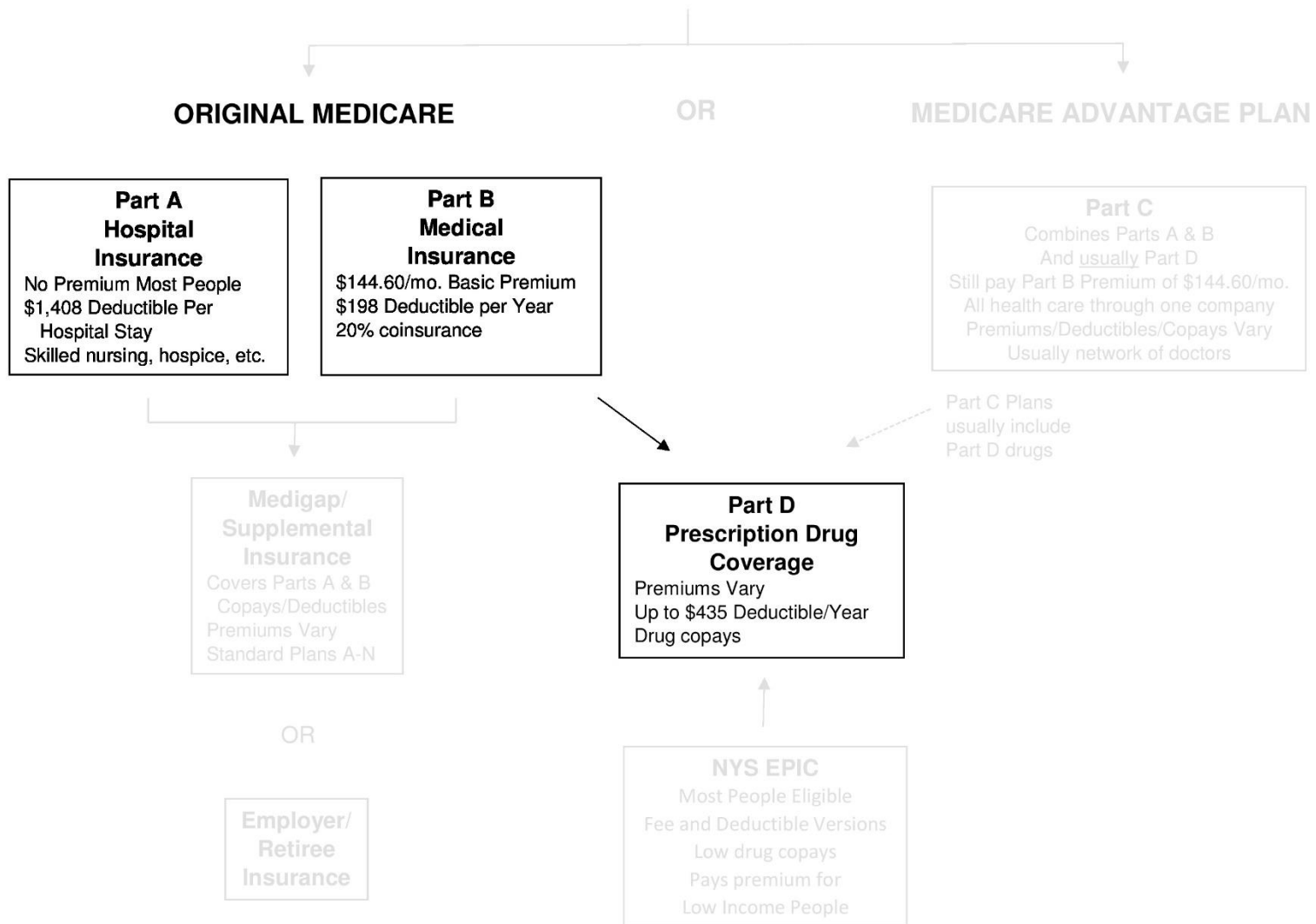
OR

Employer/ Retiree Insurance

NYS EPIC

Most People Eligible
Fee and Deductible Versions
Low drug copays
Pays premium for
Low Income People

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Medicare Part A-Covered Services

Inpatient Hospital Stays

Semi-private room, meals, general nursing, and other hospital services and supplies. Includes care in critical access hospitals and inpatient rehabilitation facilities. Inpatient mental health care in psychiatric hospital (lifetime 190-day limit). Generally covers all drugs provided during an inpatient stay received as part of your treatment.

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Care

Semi-private room, meals, skilled nursing and rehabilitation services, and other services and supplies.

Home Health Care Services

Part-time or intermittent skilled nursing care, and/or physical therapy, speech-language pathology services, and/or services for people with a continuing need for occupational therapy, some home health aide services, medical social services, and medical supplies.

Hospice Care

For terminally ill and includes drugs for pain relief and symptom management, medical care, and support services from a Medicare-approved hospice.

Blood

In most cases, if you need blood as an inpatient, you won't have to pay for it or replace it.

Medicare Part B Covered Services




- Doctors' Services
- Outpatient Medical and Surgical Services and Supplies
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Home Health Care Services
 - Medically-necessary skilled care
- Other medical services

Paying for Part B Services



- With Original Medicare in 2020 you pay:
 - Monthly premium of \$144.60
 - Higher incomes pay more (above \$87K/\$174K)
 - Yearly deductible of \$198
 - 20% coinsurance for most services
- Some programs may help pay these costs

Part B-Covered Preventive Services

- 
- “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit
 - Annual “Wellness” visit
 - Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening*
 - Alcohol misuse screening and counseling
 - Behavioral therapy for cardiovascular disease
 - Bone mass measurement
 - Cardiovascular disease screenings
 - Colorectal cancer screenings
 - Depression screening
 - Diabetes screenings
 - Diabetes self-management training
 - Flu shots
 - Glaucoma tests
 - Hepatitis B shots
 - HIV screening
 - Mammograms (screening)
 - Obesity screening and counseling
 - Pap test, pelvic exam, and clinical breast exam
 - Pneumococcal pneumonia shot
 - Prostate cancer screening
 - Sexually transmitted infection screening (STIs) and high-intensity behavioral counseling to prevent STIs
 - Smoking cessation

*When referred during Welcome to Medicare preventive visit

Delaying Enrollment in Part B



- A person can delay enrollment in Part B due to coverage through active employment, he/she has 8 months to enroll into Part B once their employment ends (Special Enrollment Period).
 - COBRA and retiree coverage do not delay the 8 month window to enroll.
 - People should not delay enrollment if they work for an employer with fewer than 20 employees.
- There is a Late Enrollment Penalty (10 percent of the monthly premium) for each full 12-month period that a person could have enrolled in Part B but didn't sign up for it.

NOT Covered by Part A and Part B

- Long-term care
- Routine dental care
- Routine vision care
- Dentures
- Cosmetic surgery
- Hearing aids and exams for fitting hearing aids
- Other – check on www.medicare.gov

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage



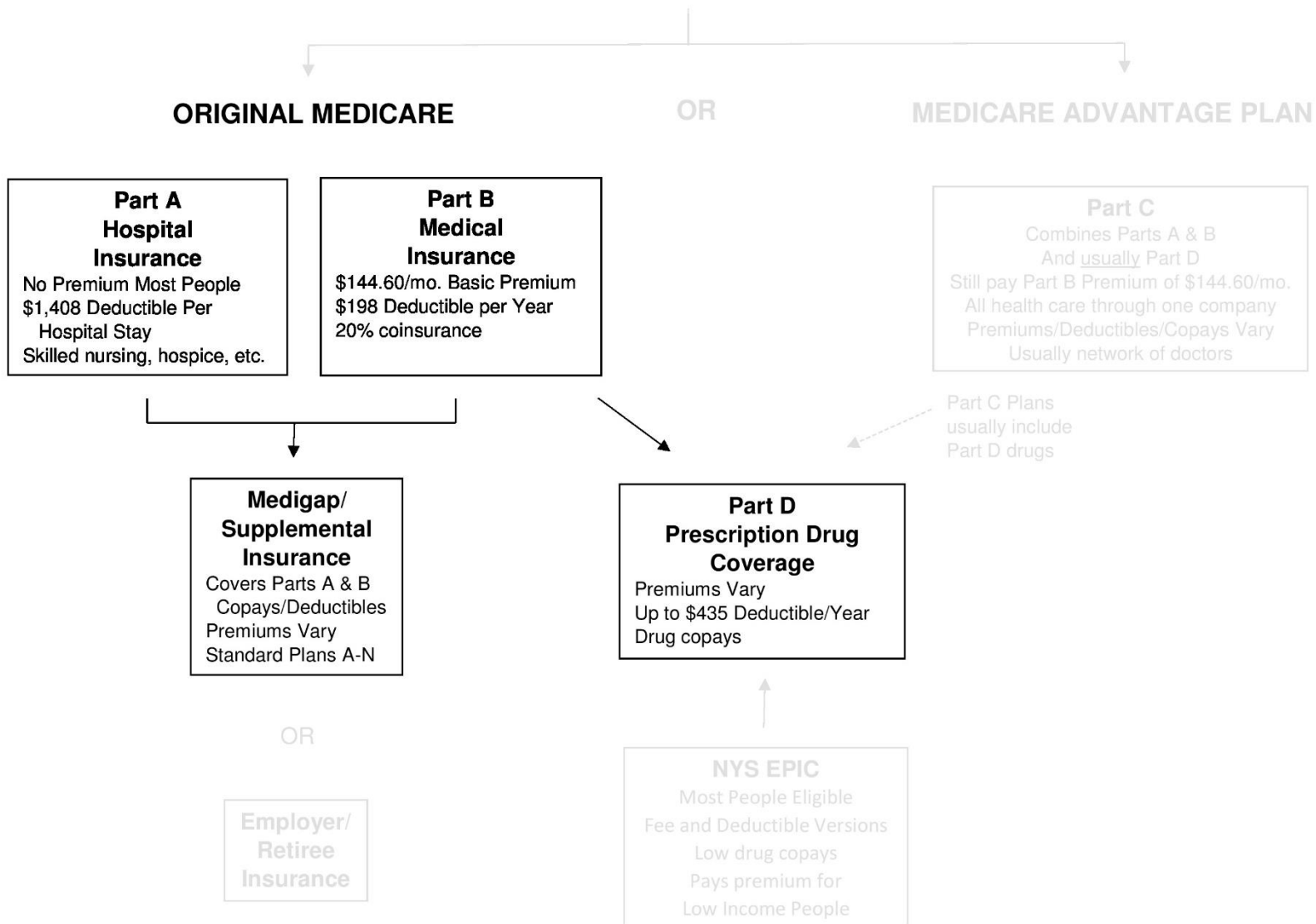
- Also called Medicare Part D
- Prescription drug plans approved by Medicare
- Run by private companies
- Available to everyone with Medicare
- Must be enrolled in a plan to get coverage
- Two sources of coverage:
 - Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs)
 - Medicare Advantage Plans with Rx coverage (MA-PDs)

Medicare Drug Plan Costs



- Costs vary by company and plan
- Most people will pay:
 - A monthly premium
 - A yearly deductible for more expensive drugs
 - Copayments or coinsurance
- A gap of more than 63 days in drug coverage may result in a penalty added to the premium
 - The penalty is 1% of the "national base beneficiary premium" (\$32.74 in 2020) times the number of full, uncovered months

Decide how you want to get your 2020 Medicare coverage



Medigap (Supplemental Insurance)



- Can pay your Part A and Part B copays and deductibles (not Part A and Part B premiums and not Part D prescription drug costs)
- Companies can only sell “standardized” Medigap policies - identified by letters (A – N)
- You can visit any doctor/facility that accepts Medicare
- Newly eligible beneficiaries (turn 65 after 12/31/2019) cannot purchase Medigap plans that cover Part B deductible (\$198 in 2020) - Plans C and F

Medigap (Supplemental Insurance)



- *Monthly premiums vary significantly by company and plan*
- Compare monthly premiums in New York by zip code at: <https://myportal.dfs.ny.gov/web/guest-applications/medicare-monthly-premiums>
- In New York State, you can enroll in or change your Medigap plan at any time of the year

Medigap Plans - Percent of Costs Covered

Benefits	A	B	C	D	F*	G*	K	L	M	N
Medicare Part A coinsurance and hospital costs (up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are used)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Medicare Part B coinsurance or copayment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	100%	100% **
Blood (first 3 pints)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	100%	100%
Part A hospice care coinsurance or copayment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	100%	100%
Skilled nursing facility care coinsurance			100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	100%	100%
Part A deductible		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	75%	50%	100%
Part B deductible			100%		100%					
Part B excess charges					100%	100%				
Foreign travel emergency (up to plan limits)			80%	80%	80%	80%			80%	80%

* Plans F & G offer a high deductible option

** Except \$20 for doctor visits and \$50 for emergency room

Plans K & L have out-of-pocket maximums

Medigap Monthly Premiums Vary Greatly

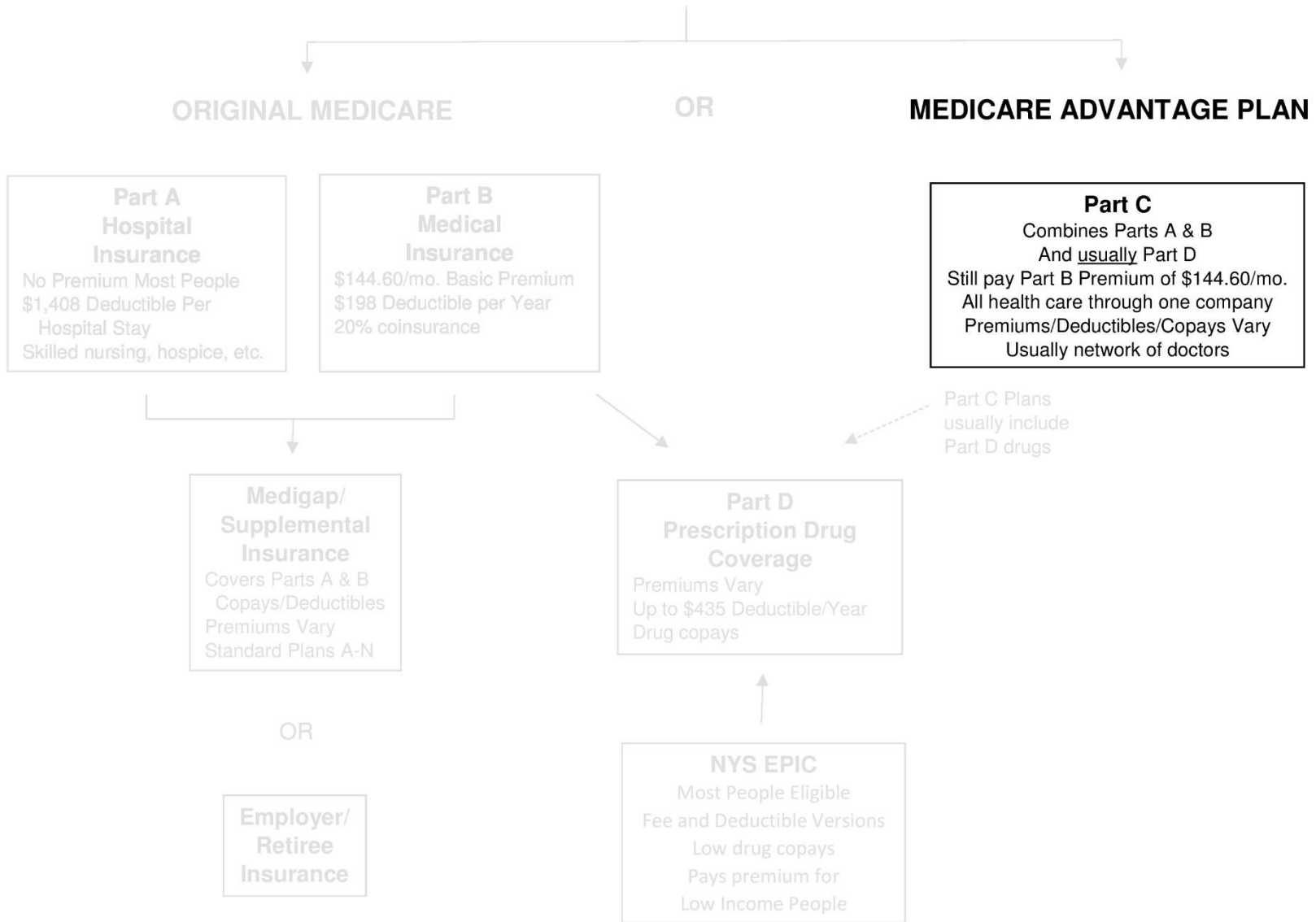
Standardized Medicare Supplement Monthly Premiums As Of 07/01/2020

Zip Code: County: Saratoga

Insurer	Plan A	Plan B	Plan C	Plan D	Plan F	Plan HDF	Plan G	Plan HDG	Plan K	Plan L	Plan M	Plan N
Company A	\$239.15	\$272.33			\$317.67		\$305.19					
Company B	\$291.83	\$381.44			\$514.08	\$60.25	\$473.91	\$60.25	\$79.30	\$227.61	\$315.17	\$310.14
Company C	\$141.00	\$194.94			\$243.80		\$218.19					\$155.85
Company D	\$200.00	\$275.00	\$331.00	\$326.00	\$312.00	\$57.00	\$290.00	\$57.00	\$114.00	\$172.00		\$216.00
Company E	\$185.48	\$242.45	\$288.56		\$508.59	\$71.46	\$291.64	\$65.36				
Company F	\$251.12	\$331.47	\$414.35		\$414.35	\$92.92	\$189.20					\$162.26
Company G	\$219.29	\$247.49	\$299.81		\$305.88	\$64.01	\$273.20	\$63.93	\$143.15	\$204.17		\$194.01
Company H	\$264.90	\$406.68	\$407.13	\$400.05	\$409.78		\$379.55				\$417.67	
Company I	\$138.00	\$182.00	\$215.00	\$197.00	\$216.00		\$199.00		\$99.00	\$147.00	\$181.00	\$170.00
Company J	\$145.00	\$208.25	\$260.00		\$250.00		\$219.00		\$67.75	\$140.75		\$162.50

Actual monthly premiums in New York by zip code can be found at:
<https://myportal.dfs.ny.gov/web/guest-applications/medicare-monthly-premiums>

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Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans



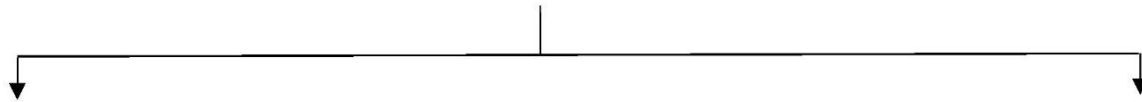
- Health plan options approved by Medicare:
 - Another way to get Medicare coverage
 - Still part of the Medicare program
 - Run by private companies
 - Still pay the Part B monthly premium
- Also called Part C
- May have to use plan's network of doctors and hospitals
- Types of plans available vary

How Medicare Advantage Plans Work



- Still get Part A and Part B services but benefits and costs may be different than Original Medicare
- Many plans with low or no monthly premiums
- Copays for most services
- Usually include prescription drug coverage (Part D)
- You show only the plan card(s) to providers
- Must cover valid emergency room treatment anywhere in the country
- May include extra benefits
 - Such as vision, dental, hearing, transportation

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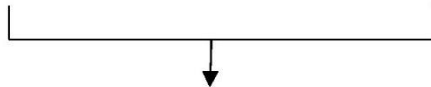
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Covers Parts A & B
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Premiums Vary
Standard Plans A-N



**Part D
Prescription Drug
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Premiums Vary
Up to \$435 Deductible/Year
Drug copays

Part C Plans
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OR

**Employer/
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Medigap or Medicare Advantage Plans?



Medigap Plans	Medicare Advantage Plans
Higher monthly premiums	Lower monthly premiums
Small or no copays for services	Copays for most services
Individuals requiring expensive or many medical services	Individuals requiring fewer services
Can visit any doctor or facility in the country who accepts Medicare	Usually must visit doctors or facilities who participate in the plan (some plans help pay for out-of-network services, PPOs)
Must buy separate prescription drug coverage from a company	Usually include prescription drug coverage

Open Enrollment Period

- Anything can be changed
- Request changes October 15 – December 7
- Changes will be effective January 1
- Contact the Office for the Aging for a free, individual counseling session (all year long)
 - Phone counseling also available
 - (518) 884-4100

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period



- Can make changes to Medicare Advantage Plans from January through March
- Can change from Medicare Advantage plan to Medicare Advantage plan or to Original Medicare
- CANNOT change from Original Medicare to Medicare Advantage plan
- One change allowed effective 1st of following month

Possible New Benefits in Medicare Advantage Plans



- Expanded benefits for:
 - Routine Vision services – exam, glasses, etc.
 - Dental
 - Usually routine services – exam, cleanings, etc.
 - Can possibly buy coverage for restorative services – cover part of cost with an annual allowance
 - Hearing
- Well care benefits such as:
 - Silver Sneakers
 - Health classes
- Services for people with chronic illnesses such as:
 - Home improvements
 - Transportation

COVID-19 and Medicare



- When available, the COVID-19 vaccine will be fully covered with no deductible or copay
- Testing to diagnose or rule out COVID-19 is fully covered with no deductible or copay
- Antibody tests are fully covered with no deductible or copay
- Telehealth visits are expanded – copays apply but providers can waive them
- Medicaid re-evaluations for people turning 65 have been postponed for one year

Prescription Drug (Part D) Senior Savings Model



- New for 2021 is the Part D Senior Savings Model
- Enhanced plan options that offer lower out-of-pocket costs for insulin
- Must receive your insulin through a Part D drug plan
- Will provide 30-day supply of a broad set of plan-formulary insulins costing no more than \$35
- Voluntary for plans and beneficiaries to participate
- Participating in our area are:
 - 11 of 44 Medicare Advantage plans
 - 8 of 28 Part D (PDP) plans

Acupuncture

- Original Medicare now covers acupuncture for chronic low back pain – no other conditions
- Chronic low back pain which is:
 - Lasting 12 weeks or longer
 - Non-specific – no identifiable systemic cause
- Up to 12 visits in 90 days are covered
- An additional 8 sessions covered for patients demonstrating improvements
- No more than 20 treatments covered annually

Competitive Bidding for Durable Medical Equipment



- Competitive Bidding is re-instated for 2021 – must purchase certain Durable Medical Equipment from specific contracted suppliers
- Includes the following product categories:
 - Commode Chairs; Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Devices and Respiratory Assist Devices (RADs); Enteral Nutrition; Hospital Beds; Nebulizers; Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) Pumps; Off-The-Shelf (OTS) Back Braces; OTS Knee Braces; Oxygen and Oxygen Equipment; Patient Lifts and Seat Lifts; Standard Manual Wheelchairs; Standard Power Mobility Devices; Support Surfaces (Groups 1 and 2); Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) Devices; Walkers
- Non-contracted suppliers must notify beneficiaries

New York State EPIC Program



- Benefits:
 - Can lower prescription drug copays
 - More flexibility in changing Part D drug plans
 - Can pay Part D drug premium for lower income people
- Must be 65 to join
- Must be New York State resident
- Must be enrolled in a Part D drug plan – either stand alone or Medicare Advantage plan
- You are eligible if your annual income is less than:
 - \$75,000 for a single person
 - \$100,000 for a married person (joint income)

2020 EPIC benefits



- Fee Plan
 - Income below \$20,000 single/\$26,000 married
 - Member pays a small quarterly fee
 - Lower EPIC co-payments apply immediately
- Deductible Plan
 - Income above \$20,000 single/\$26,000 married
 - EPIC co-payments apply after EPIC deductible met
- Income less than \$23,000 single/\$29,000 married
 - EPIC pays drug plan premium up to \$36.55/month
- Can switch drug plans anytime (one change per year)

Medicare.Gov Plan Finder



- Can review Medicare plans available in your area and compare plans side-by-side
- Can create account with User ID and Password to:
 - Access and save your list of drugs
 - Compare plans side-by-side
- New and improved look and feel
- Go to: [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov)

Need More Information?



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