



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Medicare Cost Plans: Overview & Enrollment

Medicare Cost Plans are private health insurance coverage options approved by Medicare that can be used to limit the costs of Original Medicare. These plans offer benefits within their provider network, similar to a Medicare Advantage Plan, while also providing coverage under Original Medicare for services received outside the plan's network.

If an individual goes to a provider who does not belong to their plan's network, they will have to pay Original Medicare deductibles and cost sharing, unless they receive a qualifying provider referral. If an individual goes to a provider within the plan's network, they will be responsible for the plan's required cost sharing amounts, vary from plan to plan. These cost sharing amounts can be found in the plan's evidence of coverage.

Medicare Advantage

- 'Replaces' Original Medicare.
- Many plans have \$0 or low premiums.
- Many different variations of in and out of network provider coverage, depending on plan and plan type (HMO, PPO, etc.).

Medicare Cost Plans

- Beneficiaries still have Original Medicare.
- Can have an additional premium, but typically lower than Medicare Supplement Policies.
- Providers outside of the plan network are covered by only Original Medicare.

Medicare Supplement Policies

- Beneficiaries still have Original Medicare.
- A significant premium in addition to your Medicare Part B premium.
- Does not include prescription coverage.
- Coverage at any provider in the U.S. that accepts Medicare assignment.





While they often offer more flexibility than Medicare Advantage, Medicare Cost Plans are not available in every county within Wisconsin. To view the available Medicare Cost Plans in your area, visit www.Medicare.gov and utilize the Medicare Plan Finder Tool by selecting the “Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C)” comparison. To enroll in a Medicare Cost Plan, you must:

- **Be enrolled in Medicare Part B,**
- **Find a Medicare Cost Plan that is accepting new members,**
- **Complete an application during the plan’s enrollment period, and**
 - *Examples of Potential Enrollment Periods:*
 - *Initial Enrollment Period (New to Medicare Part B)*
 - *Annual Enrollment Period (Oct 15th – Dec 7th)*
 - *Other (Special) Enrollment Period*
- **Agree to all Medicare Cost plan rules that are disclosed during the enrollment process.**
 - *Contact the insurer (plan sponsor) directly to confirm the plan’s rules and enrollment periods.*

Medicare Cost Plans may or may not offer prescription drug coverage within the plan. If a Medicare Cost Plan does not include prescription drug coverage, a beneficiary can enroll in a stand-alone Part D prescription plan, while maintaining their cost plan enrollment. Individuals cannot enroll in a Medicare Advantage Plan and a stand-alone Part D plan.

For further questions or assistance about Medicare-related health insurance coverage in Wisconsin, contact the Medigap Helpline at **1-800-242-1060** or BOALTCMedigap@wisconsin.gov.

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