

Medigap vs Medicare Advantage Plans

	Medigap Plan	Medicare Advantage Plan
Premium	Monthly Premiums range from \$50 to \$200+	Low monthly premiums, some as low as \$0
Guaranteed Acceptance	BCBSM is the only plan in MI that offers guarantee issue. BCBSM may medically underwrite & charge accordingly but will not refuse. Other carriers may deny based on underwriting.	Never medically underwritten
Rating	Rates are based on 3 different rating models: • Community-rated (also called "no age-rated") • Issue Age rated (also called "entry age -rated") • Attained age-rated-Michigan	Regionally rated
Provider Network	Any provider that accepts Medicare	Uses carrier provider networks (HMO, HMO-POS, PPO)
Foreign Travel	May Cover (depending on Plan Letter up to \$50,000 during lifetime)	Varies by carrier
Benefit Cards	Possibly 3, two bills and two explanations of benefits	One card, one bill and one EOB
Prescription Drugs	Not Covered Must purchase a separate prescription drug plan	Most plans include the prescription drug otherwise you would purchase a separate drug plan. *MI MA Only PFFS plans allow for a separate drug plan to be purchased.
Standardized Benefits	Yes	No
Copays and coinsurance	Currently most copayments and coinsurance of original Medicare can be covered (depending on plan letter) except for Part B deductible.	Usually has copayments and coinsurance
Ability to make changes	One period per lifetime unless there are special circumstances	Ability to change plans during AEP, MAOEP, enrollment periods each year. SEP available for special circumstances.
Dental & Vision	Will need to be purchased separately. Some carriers offer a rider.	Most plans offer routine coverage & option to purchase more enhanced benefits
Additional Benefits-ex: meals, transportation, fitness, wellness	Not covered	Most plans offer many enhanced benefits