

2018 Open Enrollment MEDIGAP Considerations

2018 enrollment period STARTS

2018 enrollment period ENDS







Changes made to your Medicare coverage during this period will take effect January 1, 2018

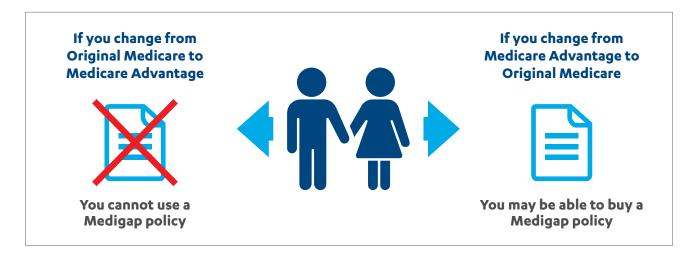
During Open Enrollment you can

- Add, drop or change your Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage
- Change from Original Medicare to Medicare Advantage
- Change from Medicare Advantage to Original Medicare

Also, if you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, from January 1st to February 14th of each year, you may leave your plan and switch to Original Medicare and join a Medicare prescription drug plan.

Changes in your Medicare health or prescription drug plan coverage may also affect your choices about Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap)

- Medigap is private health insurance that can help pay some of the costs or "gaps" that Original Medicare does not cover (like copayments or coinsurance)
- Medigap is called "Medicare Supplement Insurance" because it adds to, or "supplements," your Original Medicare benefits
- Medigap ONLY helps with Original Medicare (Part A and Part B)
- Medigap DOES NOT help with Medicare Advantage (Part C)
- Medigap DOES NOT help with a Medicare Prescription Drug plan (Part D)



Medigap Considerations During Open Enrollment:

If You	You Can	Discussion	
Have Original Medicare plus a Medigap policy	Drop your Medigap policy	 Medigap does not cover costs for Medicare Advantage so you may want to contact your Medigap insurance company to find out how to disenroll. If you later leave the Medicare Advantage Plan and return to Original Medicare, you may or may not be able to purchase another Medigap policy.² 	
and switch to Medicare Advantage ¹	 Keep your Medigap policy 	 You have a legal right to keep the Medigap policy after you join a Medicare Advantage Plan. However, the Medigap policy would no longer provide benefits. If you keep your Medigap policy you must continue to pay the premiums. 	
Have Medicare Advantage and switch to Original Medicare	Possibly buy a Medigap policy ²	If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan but return to Original Medicare, you may or may not be able to purchase a Medigap policy. ²	

¹ Applies to Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans with or without prescription drug coverage.

² Limitations and restrictions may apply. However, there are certain circumstances under which an insurance company must sell you a Medigap policy. For more information about Medigap rights in your state, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program, or call Medicare, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (resources below).

Resource	How to Access		
"2017 Choosing a Medigap Policy: A Guide to Health Insurance for People with Medicare"	www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/02110-Medicare-Medigap.guide.pdf		
"Medicare Supplement Insurance: Getting Started"	www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/11575-Medigap-Getting-Started.pdf		
Medigap Policy Search (Find a Medigap policy in your area)	www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/medigap-home.aspx		
How to Compare Medigap Policies	www.medicare.gov/supplement-other-insurance/compare-medigap/compare-medigap.html		
State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP)	www.shiptacenter.org		
Medicare	www.medicare.gov 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)TTY: 1-877-486-2048		

Medigap Checklist

	Review your expected health and prescription needs for 2018	Decide if you would like to buy Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap)*
	Based on your needs, choose your Medicare health	Review Medigap policies available in your area
	and prescription plans	If you need help, call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program

*Medigap can only help with Original Medicare, not Medicare Advantage or your prescription drug plan. Also, if you had a Medigap policy before and dropped it, you may have to meet certain requirements to get one back again.

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