



DO YOU HAVE A MEDICARE MOOP?

By Bob Arnett @ Arnett Life & Health Insurance Services

Every year on October 15th Medicare opens up for enrollment, commonly called AEP or the Annual Enrollment Period. That is the time when people over 65 are allowed to change their health plans; and when they do, their new plan will be effective January 1st. MEDICARE ADVANTAGE Plans are fine but when you need to use them they begin to cost you out of pocket dollars. At least you have upper \$\$ limits called MOOP or **Max Out of Pocket**. These limits go from \$3,000 to \$6,700 a year depending on the plan you have AND are over and above your monthly premiums. **Example:** If you go into the hospital and have a **3 day stay** you can count on an average of \$250 a day up to the first 7 days or \$750.00, plus 10%, 20% or 30% of all the Doctors and other medical costs. Say those other costs come to \$15,000. Let's pick 20%, You pay 20% of \$15,000 or \$3,000 plus the hospital charge of \$750, which makes what you owe \$3,750.00 out of your pocket. These costs can climb to god only knows but at least you have a MOOP of \$3,000 to \$6,700 as a stop gap. MEDICARE ADVANTAGE plans cost from a \$0 premium to \$148 a month depending on the company and plan you choose. Usually the lower the premium the more you pay when you use the plan. FYI, These plans normally include a credible Prescription Drug plan.

Personally I am sold on MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS, See Cost chart: (HH = Household Discount)

***Check rates below to see if you can save yourself some money.**

Age (M-F)	Monthly premium w/o HH Discount	Monthly premium with HH Discount
65	\$143.75	\$133.74
70	\$162.33	\$150.42
75	\$184.10	\$165.70
80	\$204.95	\$184.45

These \$ figures are for a Plan F MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS are different than MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS. With a Medicare Supplement Plan F, what you pay monthly is your cost for your health care as long as you are using a Doctor, Hospital, Urgent Care etc. that accepts Medicare Assignment. (Actually whether you have a MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT or a MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN you always need to be sure that the medical entity you are using is either in your network and/or accepts Medicare. Neglecting to ask these simple questions has hurt seniors time and time again. Be proactive and always be aware of who accepts what; especially when you are going to a new provider, even if you were referred by someone you are currently using, ALWAYS CHECK!)

When you turn 65 you have an Open Enrollment Period which means you do not have to answer any health questions to obtain a MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT. Anyone already with a MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT can change plans any time during the year as long as they can answer the health questions successfully. The great thing is when you go into the hospital and everything is covered, if you have doctor visits you have NO co pays, if you need tests or surgery in or out of the hospital there is no out of pocket expense at all. There are no MOOP's because the Supplement picks up the difference. You are still considered to be on Original Medicare which pays 80% of the bill and your MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT pays the balance **PLUS** any excess charges. I cannot say enough about MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS, they are also a great budget tool as well. You always know what your medical costs will be, which is, the amount of the monthly premium you pay.

As I have said before, all MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLANS are the same, coverage-wise, no matter what company offers them, however, the pricing is different. There can be \$ differences up to \$50 or \$60 a month, per plan, on the exact same plan between different companies. **EXAMPLE GIVEN:** My wife and I just changed to a different MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT Provider and are now saving \$88.00 a month between the two of us from what we were paying before.

Also, when you purchase a Medicare Supplement you also need to purchase a credible, stand-alone, Prescription Drug plan. Depending on your Rx needs those plans can run from \$18.40 a month to \$30 something. You can go to Medicare.gov and put in your Rx information and it will show you available plans and how much your prescription costs will be for the year.

Ask your agent if he can save you anything with your plan or call me and I will be happy to give you a free quote or see if you can qualify.

Thank you & Best regards, Bob - [www . ALISPROTECT.COM](http://www.ALISPROTECT.COM) - 208 570 8390