# **MEDICARE ADVANTAGE** What is Medicare Advantage?





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### Introduction

Medicare Advantage Plans (Part C) are insurance plans offered by private companies that operate as a replacement for Original Medicare

Plans are based on member cost-sharing:

- Members pay a low (or \$0) monthly premium
- Members only pay copays or coinsurance for services they use

Members are encouraged to use a specific provider network

Clients must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to enroll in a Medicare Advantage Plan





## **Benefits** Overview

Medicare Advantage Plans must match or exceed the coverage of Original Medicare, though the cost-sharing may differ

- Part A benefits including hospital stays, skilled nursing care, home health care, etc.
- Part B benefits including doctor's visits, outpatient care, screenings, lab tests, etc.

Many plans also include prescription drug coverage as well as additional benefits such as:

- Vision
- Hearing
- Transportation

\*Medicare Advantage Plans do not cover hospice care since Medicare Part A will cover it





## Plan Types

There are multiple types of Medicare Advantage Plans, each with unique characteristics:

- HMOs (Health Maintenance Organizations)
- PPOs (Preferred Provider Organizations)
- POS (Point of Service Plans )
- PFFS (Private Fee-for-Service Plans )
- MSA (Medical Savings Account Plans )

The main difference between these plans is how members access providers





### How it Works

Medicare Advantage benefits can vary by the plan type

- Clients pay a low, or no, monthly premium
- Plans may include a network of doctors and hospitals that members must use
- Members pay only for copays or coinsurance on the medical services they use
- Some plans may also include a yearly deductible for medical services or prescription drugs



## How it Works

Why Medicare Advantage?

- Clients receive the same or better coverage than they would with Original Medicare
- Clients pay a low, or no, monthly premium
- Clients' out-of-pocket expense is capped
- Clients only pay for services that they use
- There are many different plan options
- Plans may include extra value-added benefits



