

Medicare Supplement (MEDIGAP) Fact Sheet

1. All plans are nationally standardized, meaning a Plan G will pay the same regardless of company and regardless of the premium. These plans do not include drug coverage, dental coverage or vision coverage. Separate dental and/or vision riders may be available for an additional premium. Drug coverage can be purchased through a Medicare approved Part D plan.
2. You must be enrolled in Medicare Part B before you can purchase a Medicare Supplement insurance. You are not allowed to be a Medicare Supplement insurance if you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan.
3. All MEDIGAP policies are age-rated, meaning your premiums are based on your age when you apply for coverage. Issue age policies average your premium based on their estimate of how long you will live. Attained age policies calculate the premium each year to adjust for age.
4. Benefit Plans C and F will not be sold after January 1, 2020 to anyone not eligible for Medicare prior to that date. Anyone currently on one of these benefit plans can keep their coverage if they choose. The premiums for these plans will probably increase faster than the premiums for other benefit plans.

(NOTE: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas has indicated they will allow their insured with Benefit Plan F to switch to Benefit Plan G without underwriting. If you currently have a Medicare Supplement insurance, ask them if they will allow you to switch from Benefit Plan F to Benefit Plan G without underwriting.)

5. Pre-existing Underwriting means that insurance company looks at your current and past medical issues to determine if:
 - a. The company will accept you as an insured.
 - b. The company will add a surcharge to your regular premium to cover the added expense of your medical issues.
 - c. The company will impose a waiting period before they cover your medical issues.The types of medical issues the insurance companies will ask about are heart problems, cancer, dementia, diabetes, upcoming joint replacement surgeries, respiratory diseases, etc.
6. During the first six months after the effective date of Part B (whether that be due to aging in, leaving employer coverage or gaining Medicare eligibility based on a disability) OR during the first 63 days after you lose employer insurance (if you already have Part B in place), you can purchase a MEDIGAP policy without pre-existing underwriting. After these times, you will be subject to underwriting if you want to purchase a MEDIGAP plan. (Underwriting means your premium and eligibility will be subject to answers you provide on health questions asked by the company.)
7. Medicare Supplement Evaluation Form
 - a. The MEDIGAP companies with the higher letter grade on the AM Best rating are more financially sound. The descriptor behind the letter grade is a predictor of future performance.

- b. For the Consumer Complaint Index, numbers less than 1.00 are better than numbers higher than 1.00.
 - c. The premium indicated in the last column of the Evaluation Form is the most recent premium quote published on the Kansas Insurance Department website.
8. Once you have determined which company(ies) you are interested in, please call the Marketing Phone Number (on the evaluation form) for the company. Request an application. You can request applications from more than one company, if you wish. Until you sign the completed application and send them the premium amount, you are not enrolled in their insurance.

HOW TO READ THE MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE (MEDIGAP) EVALUATION FORM:

Use the criteria of Insurance Rating, Consumer Complaint Index and Premium criteria are recommended for choosing MEDIGAP insurance plan.

1. AM Best Rating (an independent evaluator of insurance companies)
 - a. Letter grade is for past performance
 - b. Description is for future performance
 - c. A high letter grade with a stable or positive descriptor is your best financial option.
2. Consumer Complaint Index is a comparison of the complaints received by the insurance department to the insurance company's business percentage. And index value of 1.00 is average. An index of less than 1.00 is better; an index of greater than 1.00 is worse.
**indicates the insurance company does not do enough business in Kansas to calculate an index.
3. Insurance Premium- see below to determine the current premium registered with the Kansas Insurance Department.
 - a. Go to insurance.kansas.gov website
 - b. Click on Reports/Service at top right of page in menu bar
 - c. Click on Comparing Rates (2nd option from top) and then choose the third option provided in the gold box labeled "Medicare Supplement Online Comparisons"
 - d. Complete the following fields and click on submit button: Age, Gender, Zip Code, Tobacco Use, and the benefit plan you want by letter from drop down box
 - e. The insurance companies offering the benefit plan you chose are listed. Click on the insurance company name to find out the premium information. The insurance company information will come up for contact information and premium options. You can right click on this page to print the info if you wish. **REMEMBER: All Medigap Insurance Companies offering the same benefit plan will pay the same amount regardless of premium amount.**