

What Factors Affect Insurance Coverage

How insurance companies set prices for Medigap policies

Each insurance company sets its own monthly premiums and decides how it will set the price. You should ask how an insurance company prices Medigap policies. The way it sets the prices affects how much you pay now and in the future. Medigap policies can be priced or “rated” in three ways:

1. Community-rated (also called “no-age-rated”)
2. Issue-age-rated
3. Attained-age-rated

Community-rated (also called “no-age-rated”)

The same monthly premium is charged to everyone who has the Medigap policy, regardless of age. The premium is the same no matter how old you are. The premium may go up because of inflation and other factors, but not based on your age.

Issue-age-rated

The premium is based on the age you are when you buy the Medigap policy. Premiums are lower when you buy at a younger age and won’t change as you get older. The premium may go up because of inflation and other factors, but not because of your age.

Attained-age-rated

The premium is based on your current age so your premium goes up as you get older. The premium is low when you buy at a young age, but goes up as you get older. It may be the least expensive at first, but it can eventually become the most expensive. The premium may also go up because of inflation and other factors.

Gender

Some companies have different premiums for men and women.

Area

Some companies charge different premiums based on where you live, zip codes, and/or counties.

Other Factors to Consider

Some companies have lower prices for non-smokers.

Some companies have a crossover agreement with Medicare. This is a convenience that lets Medicare send your bills directly to the insurance company.

A few companies listed in the comparison guide require membership in a specific organization before a policy can be issued. Some companies offer different levels of premium based on underwriting criteria. Once you have narrowed your choices, you should check with the companies to verify the actual premium.

Again, we must state rate increases could have occurred since this publication.

Most companies provide toll-free numbers for your convenience.