Medicare Part C

Medicare Advantage Plans are health plan options (like an HMO or PPO) approved by CMS and are sometimes called "Part C" or "MA Plans." Medicare Advantage plans provide both Medicare Part A and Part B covered services. Medicare Advantage Plans may also offer extra coverage, such as:

- Vision;
- Hearing;
- Dental;
- Health and wellness programs; and
- Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage (usually for an extra cost).

Medicare pays a fixed amount for the services covered by Medicare and offered by private companies. These companies must follow rules set by Medicare. Medicare Advantage Plans are not supplemental insurance. Medicare Advantage Plans include the following:

- Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Plans;
- Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Plans;
- Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS) Plans;
- Medical Savings Account (MSA) Plans; and
- Special Needs Plans (SNP). These are Medicare plans that also offer Part D.