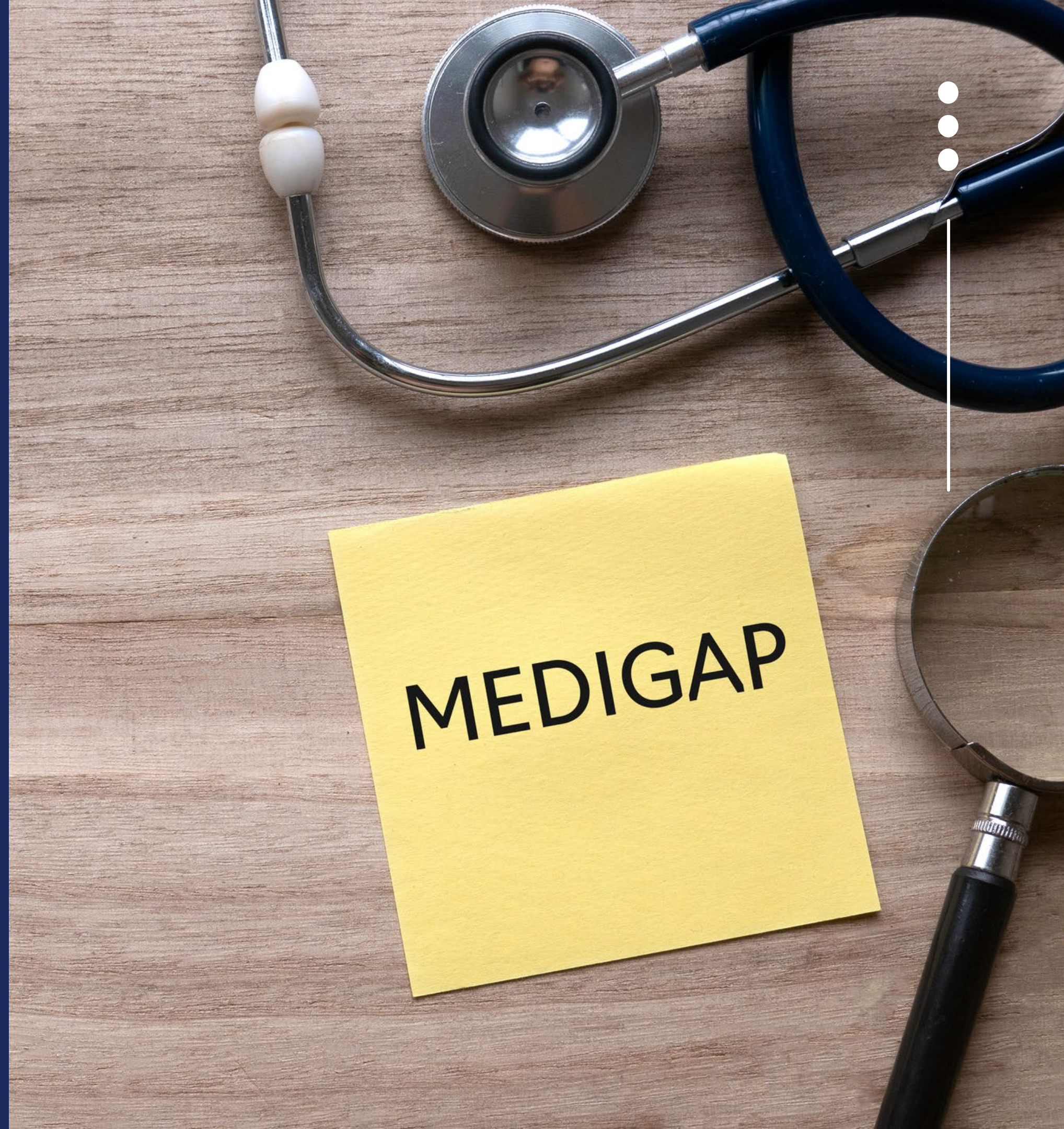


# MEDIGAP UPDATES

Presented by:  
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Commonwealth of Virginia

## BUREAU OF INSURANCE

*The State Corporation Commission, through the Bureau of Insurance, regulates the insurance industry. We set the standard for carrying out the laws that protect consumers, promoting stability, and ensuring that insurance markets remain solvent.*

*Note: BOI does not regulate Medicare*

# AGENDA

Overview of Medigap

Medigap “Birthday Rule” Open Enrollment Period

Demo – Medigap Premium Finder

Resources for VICAP



## MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE (MEDIGAP)

Fills in the gaps with Original Medicare (deductibles, coinsurance and copays)

Sold by private insurance companies

All Plans with the same letter sold by different companies:

- Coverage is the same
- Costs are different

You must have Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance)

## GUARANTEED ISSUE RIGHT

If you are age 65 or older, you have a guaranteed issue right within 63 days of when you lose or end certain kinds of health coverage .

- Companies must sell you a Medigap policy at the best available rate, regardless of your health status, and cannot deny you coverage.
- Prevents companies from imposing a waiting period for coverage of pre-existing conditions.

You may have a guaranteed issue right if:

- You, through no fault of your own, lost a group health plan that covered your Medicare cost-sharing (meaning it paid secondary to Medicare).
- You joined a Medicare Advantage Plan when you first became eligible for Medicare and disenrolled within 12 months.
- Or your previous Medigap policy, Medicare Advantage Plan, or PACE program ends its coverage or commits fraud.

## ATTAINED-AGE VS. ISSUE-AGE VS. COMMUNITY RATED

### Attained Age (AA)

Premiums increase each year as the insured ages.

### Issue Age (IA)

Premiums remain the same and are based on the age at application.

### Community Rated

Medigap plans are based on your specific geographical location. Everyone in a specific community or area will pay the same premium price.



# MEDIGAP UNDER 65

Effective January 1, 2024, Virginia law establishes a new and separate six-month open enrollment period for individuals under the age of 65 and Medicare eligible by reason of disability due to ESRD. Under this open enrollment period:

- Individuals who became eligible prior to January 1, 2024, will have a six-month period to apply beginning January 1, 2024;
- In the case of a retroactive eligibility decision, individuals will have a six-month period beginning January 1, 2024, or the month the person receives the retroactive eligibility decision, whichever is later;
- At the individual's request, a 63-day period following voluntary or involuntary termination of coverage under a group health plan, or a six-month period beginning January 1, 2024, whichever period provides the later date to enroll.



# MEDIGAP AND ENROLLMENT

## Medicare Supplement Open Enrollment Period (OEP):

- You have six months to enroll, starts the month you are 65 and enrolled in Medicare Part B.
- Medigap companies must sell you a policy at the best available rate and cannot deny you coverage. Medical underwriting is not allowed .

## If you delay enrolling in Medicare Part B until after you turn 65:

- Your Medigap OEP automatically starts the month you enroll in Medicare Part B. Same rules apply stated above.

## Outside of Medigap Open Enrollment:

- Medical underwriting likely required.

## New Medigap Open Enrollment Period:

- Starting July 1, 2025 – insurers must offer Medigap policyholders an annual OEP beginning on the individual's birthday and ending 60 days after. During this OEP, you can purchase any policy made available by any insurer in Virginia that offers the same benefits as the current coverage.



# MEDIGAP “BIRTHDAY RULE” OEP

## Who is eligible?

- You are a resident of Virginia, and
- You are currently insured under a Medigap policy or certificate issued by a licensed insurer, health services plan, or health maintenance organization in Virginia

## What policies can be chosen?

You may change to any Medigap policy that:

- Is offered by any insurer issuing Medigap policies in Virginia; AND
- Provides the same benefits as your current Medigap policy (e.g., Plan G to Plan G)

## What protections apply?

During the Birthday Rule open enrollment period:

- Insurers cannot deny you coverage based on your health status (including tobacco use), medical condition, claims history, or receipt of health care
- Insurers cannot charge you more for the new Medigap policy based on your health status
- Insurers cannot impose waiting periods or medical underwriting requirements during this time

These protections apply only when switching to a policy with the same benefits.



# FAQS

Can I upgrade to a Medigap policy with more benefits during this period?

Do all insurers in Virginia have to honor this rule?

Does this Birthday Rule allow for changes in Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage Plans?

Do deductibles I have already met carry over to the new Medigap policy?



# MEDIGAP PREMIUM FINDER



## MEDIGAP PLAN SEARCH

[Bureau of Insurance](#)

Current as of 9/11/2024.

Welcome to the Medigap Premium Finder. This tool allows you to search and compare annual premiums for Medicare Supplement (Medigap) plans offered by insurance companies where you live.\*

You must select one or more plans and a (current or future) start date. Select Search to see available plans; Clear Search to reset all fields to begin a new search.

If more than one county/city appears when entering your zip code, also select the county/city where you live.

Placing your cursor on the question mark (?) icon will show additional information.

Age:\*

Gender:\*

Tobacco Use Status:\*

Plan Start Date:\*

Zip Code:\*

County/City:\*



Plans:\*

- ☐ A ?
- ☐ B ?
- ☐ C ?
- ☐ D ?
- ☐ F ?
- ☐ FH ?
- ☐ G ?
- ☐ GH ?
- ☐ K ?
- ☐ L ?
- ☐ M ?
- ☐ N ?

⚠ Plan C, F, and FH are available only to those eligible for Medicare prior to 1/1/2020.

Select All Plans

Search

Clear Search

\* You must contact the company to confirm premiums for your situation. Premiums are based on several factors, and those displayed here are not guaranteed. Select the company name to be redirected to the company's website.'

If you have questions about this tool or about Medigap coverage, please contact the Bureau of Insurance, Life and Health Consumer Services Section. You may call 804-371-9691 or 1-877-310-6560 or email

[BureauofInsurance@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:BureauofInsurance@scc.virginia.gov).

[www.scc.virginia.gov/medigap/PlanSearch](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/medigap/PlanSearch)

# RESOURCES FOR VICAP

Medigap Guide

Medigap Premium Finder

LTC Rate Increase  
Webpage

Senior Resources  
Webpage

File a Complaint  
Webpage

Life & Health Consumer  
Services Section



# GET IN TOUCH



Virginia Bureau of Insurance



[BureauofInsurance@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:BureauofInsurance@scc.virginia.gov)



1-877-310-6560



[scc.virginia.gov/consumers/Insurance](https://scc.virginia.gov/consumers/Insurance)