Do I Need a Medicare Supplement  
Insurance (Medigap) Policy?

Seniors who choose Original Medicare for their Parts A and B coverage, can reduce their “extra” costs that come in the form of deductibles and co-payments through Medicare Supplement Insurance, commonly known as Medigap. Understanding how Medigap can affect your overall healthcare costs can help you make the right decisions for your budget.

**How Medigap works with Original Medicare**

Original Medicare, which includes Parts A and B, offers comprehensive health coverage but does not pay for everything. That's where Medigap comes in. These policies are designed to "fill the gaps" by covering:

**• Deductibles:** Amounts you must pay out-of-pocket before Medicare starts to cover its share.  
  
**• Co-payments:**Your share of the costs for medical services after paying any deductibles.  
  
**• Foreign Travel Emergencies:** Original Medicare has limited overseas coverage; Medigap can help cover unforeseen medical emergencies when traveling abroad.

**Benefits of a Medigap policy**

**• Financial security:** With fixed monthly premiums, Medigap policies help ensure that unexpected medical expenses don't throw your budget off course.  
  
**• Flexibility:** Most Medigap policies allow you to visit any doctor or facility that accepts Medicare, providing flexibility in your healthcare choices.  
  
**• Standardized plans:** Medigap plans are standardized, making it easier to compare offerings. Each standardized plan must offer the same benefits, regardless of the insurance company.

**What to know before you enroll in Medigap**  
While Medigap offers advantages, it's essential to weigh certain factors:

**• Cost:** Cost: Medigap policies come with monthly premiums. Consider whether the benefits outweigh the additional monthly expenses based on your health needs and financial situation.  
  
**• Existing coverage:**If you have coverage from an employer or union, it might overlap with Medigap benefits. Ensure you're not paying for redundant coverage.  
  
**• Medicare Advantage:** If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C), it's illegal for anyone to sell you a Medigap policy unless you're switching back to Original Medicare.

**Choosing the right Medigap plan**  
  
Medigap helps protect you against unforeseen medical costs and offers an added layer of financial security. However, it's a personal decision rooted in individual healthcare needs and financial circumstances. Be sure to work with a trusted financial advisor along with an EOS plan comparison to help find the right Medigap plan for you.