

2019 Policy Priorities To Support And Strengthen Medicare Advantage

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Better Medicare Alliance is the leading coalition of diverse stakeholders and beneficiaries that advocates for Medicare Advantage. We support policies that strengthen Medicare Advantage, enabling plans, providers and community partners to offer high-quality, affordable, integrated care for Medicare beneficiaries. We seek to ensure that Medicare Advantage can continue to modernize Medicare through enhanced benefits and innovations in financing and care delivery that can best meet the needs of today's – and tomorrow's – Medicare beneficiaries.

Improve Seniors' Enrollment Experience and Enhance Patient Engagement

- Improve the public outreach, materials and tools available to beneficiaries, particularly during Initial and Open Enrollment Periods, to fully explain and promote active decision-making around Medicare coverage options
- Expand the types and monetary value of allowable beneficiary incentives and provide more flexible targeting of incentives to certain enrollees
- Allow seamless transitions into Medicare Advantage for certain populations, including LIS individuals in standalone prescription drug plans (PDP) into integrated MA-PD plans

Promote Payment and Care Delivery Innovations in Medicare Advantage

- Expand the range of allowable supplemental benefits to include those that directly address social determinants of health
- Enable plans to lower cost-sharing based on social determinants of health
- Allow uniformity rule flexibility in Part D for integrated MA-PD plans
- Allow small-scale testing of benefit design and payment innovations prior to broad adoption
- Drive growth in value-based care models between providers and plans to achieve integrated care

Encourage Continued Quality Improvement in the Medicare Advantage/Part D Star Rating System

- Modernize the Star Rating System to shift emphasis toward actionable, high-value health outcomes measures and away from low-value plan administration measures
- Improve patient satisfaction measurement in the Star Ratings System to be more meaningful and accurate
- Align the Star Rating System measures with other Medicare quality reporting programs, such as ACOs and MIPS

Ensure a Stable Growth Environment So Medicare Advantage Can Continue to Be a High-Value Option for Seniors

- Repeal or delay the health insurance tax (HIT) for 2020 and beyond
- Expand the definition of MA Employer Group Waiver Plans (EGWP) to allow profession-based associations and other appropriate organizations to collectively purchase an EGWP plan
- Freeze the coding intensity adjustment at the current statutory minimum
- Eliminate the benchmark cap for plans rated 4 stars or higher on the Star Rating System
- Allow telehealth to contribute to network adequacy requirements in rural and medically underserved markets

Provide Medicare Advantage Organizations with the Tools to Better Negotiate Lower Drug Prices for Seniors

- Allow integrated MA-PD plans to use utilization management tools for Part B drugs
- Pass the CREATES Act to help bring cost-effective generics and biosimilars to market more quickly
- Enable integrated MA-PD plans to use beneficiary incentives to drive better medication adherence and outcomes
- Enable MA-PD plans to use value-based payments to promote medication therapy management and coordination across pharmacy and medical benefits