

Fact Sheet: January 2021

## Lowering Costs, Avoiding Hospitalizations, and Improving Preventive and Coordinated Care in Medicare Advantage

Medicare Advantage is an option within Medicare that provides health care coverage to over 24 million Medicare beneficiaries — more than a third of Medicare-eligible individuals. Focus on primary care in Medicare Advantage improves preventive care and works to slow disease progression. Practitioners in Medicare Advantage are encouraged to provide timely screenings, early intervention, care coordination and engage with beneficiaries.

Data show that Medicare Advantage beneficiaries are as high as 49% more likely to receive some preventive care services compared to their Traditional FFS Medicare counterparts. 72.8% of enrollees in Medicare Advantage receive the pneumonia vaccine versus 49.0% in Traditional FFS Medicare.

An analysis of Medicare Advantage versus Traditional FFS Medicare found that inpatient hospitalizations were 10% lower among Medicare Advantage enrollees, and outpatient visits were higher.

Research indicates that almost 70% of Medicare Advantage beneficiaries have a physician office visit within 14 days of hospital discharge compared to 58% of Traditional FFS Medicare beneficiaries.

A study found the pattern of disparities in mammography screening for minority women that is found in Traditional FFS Medicare did not occur in Medicare Advantage, leading the authors to suggest that minority women may have better access to mammography in Medicare Advantage than Traditional FFS Medicare.

Medicare Advantage beneficiaries are 7% more likely to have a breast cancer screening as compared to Traditional FFS Medicare beneficiaries.

The 30-day readmission rate among Medicare Advantage enrollees was 5% lower than the rate in Traditional FFS Medicare.

Medicare Advantage costs for primary care (physician services and lab tests) were 30% higher than Traditional FFS Medicare costs for these services, suggesting greater utilization of primary care services in Medicare Advantage.

Better Medicare Alliance (BMA) is the leading coalition of nurses, doctors, health plans, employers, aging service agencies, advocates, retiree organizations, and beneficiaries supporting Medicare Advantage. Medicare Advantage offers quality, affordability and simplicity, with enhanced benefits to more than 24 million Medicare beneficiaries across America. BMA works to ensure the sustainability and stability of Medicare Advantage through information, research, education, and united support among stakeholders to strengthen this important coverage for seniors and the disabled.

Pneumonia Vaccine in Medicare Advantage

