

BETTER MEDICARE

ALLIANCE

January 11, 2024

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 445-G
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

As the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) prepares for the calendar year 2025 Medicare Advantage rate and policy setting process, we write to thank you for your leadership and work to protect the health and wellbeing of all Americans. Further, we would like to express our strong support for Medicare Advantage and the high-quality care it provides to seniors and people with disabilities across the country. As a diverse group of providers, patient advocates, health plans, community-based organizations, and other health care leaders, we encourage you to consider policies that promote stability and support a strong, sustainable Medicare Advantage option for over 31 million beneficiaries.

Medicare Advantage currently serves 51 percent of the Medicare population, which is expected to increase in 2024 as enrollment is projected to reach nearly 34 million beneficiaries.¹ Medicare Advantage also covers an increasingly diverse population, with the largest increases in enrollment among historically underserved populations, including Black, Latino, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, dual eligible, and low-income beneficiaries.² The value and innovation in Medicare Advantage is demonstrated by its affordability, with beneficiaries saving more than \$2,400 annually on premiums and out-of-pocket costs compared to beneficiaries in Fee-for-Service Medicare.³ Moreover, Medicare Advantage delivers high-quality ratings and increasingly offers enhanced supplemental benefits that meet the health care needs of Medicare's more at-risk populations.⁴

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to preserving and strengthening this critical choice for current and future Medicare beneficiaries, and we look forward to continued engagement on our shared goals. Areas of alignment with CMS' recently published CY 2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D Proposed Rule include goals to advance health equity, enhance the value of supplemental benefits through data collection and evaluation, improve access to mental and behavioral health care, and establish marketing guidance that supports beneficiaries in making informed choices. We further call on health plans and other stakeholders to strengthen and improve Medicare Advantage as a reliable, equitable, and high-quality health care coverage option for millions of seniors and people living with disabilities.

As programmatic changes are implemented, as well as continued implementation of significant changes finalized in the CY 2024 Rate Announcement, we want to emphasize the need for stability and further understanding the impact recent changes have on beneficiaries to ensure successful implementation and minimal disruption to beneficiaries in receiving care.

Thank you again for your work protecting beneficiary access to affordable, high-quality coverage options. We look forward to partnering with you to deliver a healthier future for tens of millions of seniors and people with disabilities through a strong and vibrant Medicare Advantage.

Sincerely,

Better Medicare Alliance
Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islanders Nevada Legislative
Caucus
Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
agilon health
Aligning for Health
Alliance for Connected Care
American Medical Group Association
American Muslim Health Professionals
American Telemedicine Association
ATAAction
America's Physician Groups
Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
Arizona Nurses Association
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Austin Regional Clinic (TX)
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Commonwealth Care Alliance
El Paso Health (TX)
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Global Link International
Granite YMCA (NH)
Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health (PA)
Health Care Transformation Task Force
Healthcare Leadership Council
HealthCAWS—Combining Accountability with Support
International Council on Active Aging
Lakes Region Mental Health Center (NH)
Matrix Medical Network
Meals on Wheels America
Meals on Wheels of Hillsborough County (NH)
Meals on Wheels South Florida
Moving Health Home
National Alliance on Mental Illness—Philadelphia (PA)

National Adult Day Services Association
National Association of Dental Plans
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Network for Excellence in Health Innovation (NEHI)
Nevada Latin Chamber of Commerce
Nevada Latino Legislative Caucus
New Jersey State Nurses Association
Northwell Health (NY)
Partners in Care Foundation
Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PA)
Population Health Alliance
Prevea Health (WI)
Prominence Health Plan
Public Sector HealthCare Roundtable
Senior Helpers of Tempe (AZ)
SilverSneakers by Tivity Health
SNP Alliance
Summa Health (OH)
Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Kentucky
The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia (PA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
UPMC Health Plan (PA)
USAging
Vancouver Clinic (WA)
VillageMD
VNS Health (NY)
YMCA of the USA

¹<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/medicare-advantage-and-medicare-prescription-drug-programs-remain-stable-2024> ²

<https://atiadvisory.com/resources/comparing-medicare-advantage-and-ffs-medicare-across-race-and-ethnicity/> ³

<https://atiadvisory.com/resources/https-atiadvisory-com-resources-wp-content-uploads-2023-03-ma-cost-protections-data-brief-2023-pdf> ⁴

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-prepares-kick-medicare-open-enrollment-and-releases-2024-medicare;>

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/calendar-year-2024-participation-medicare-advantage-value-based-insurance-design-model-innovating>