

# BETTER MEDICARE

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## 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

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  
AANHPI Nevada Legislative Caucus (NV)  
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  
ATA Action  
America's Physician Groups  
Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AZ)  
Arizona Nurses Association (AZ)  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
Austin Regional Clinic (TX)  
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (TX)  
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 (FL)  
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 Medical Association  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
Network for Excellence in Health Innovation  
Nevada Latin Chamber of Commerce (NV)  
Nevada Latino Legislative Caucus (NV)  
New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJ)  
Northwell Health (NY)  
Partners in Care Foundation  
Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging (PA)  
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PA)  
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 (KY)  
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

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://atiadvisory.com/resources/comparing-medicare-advantage-and-ffs-medicare-across-race-and-ethnicity/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://atiadvisory.com/resources/https-atiadvisory-com-resources-wp-content-uploads-2023-03-ma-cost-protections-data-brief-2023-pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <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>