



Medicare Open Enrollment Preview

October 14, 2015
Mark Hamelburg

MA Plan Benefits



➤ MA plans must cover all Part A and Part B benefits but typically provide much more, including:

- Annual maximum out-of-pocket (MOOP) limit
- SNF coverage without 3 day inpatient stay, other types of enhanced coverage
- Vision, hearing, dental, and fitness benefits
- Cost sharing often lower than the FFS program
- Part D coverage
- Case management services
- Disease management programs
- Coordinated care programs
- Tools to address disparities in care for minorities
- Prescription drug management tools integrated with medical benefits
- Nurse help hotlines

Part D Plan Benefits



➤ Part D plans must cover a basic benefit but can offer enhanced coverage and other benefits for consumers, including:

- Low cost generics
- Subsidies for low income beneficiaries
- Robust pharmacy networks
- Exceptions process for off-formulary drugs
- Quality assurance measures and systems to reduce medication errors and adverse drug interactions and improve medication use
- MTM
- High satisfaction

MA Plan Quality



➤ Research on MA plan quality of care

- A 2013 *Health Affairs* study found MA plans' performance on measures for breast cancer screening, diabetes care, and cholesterol testing for cardiovascular disease were consistently better compared to the Medicare FFS program
- An *American Journal of Managed Care (AJMC)* study found MA plans had a readmission rate about 13 percent to 20 percent lower than in the FFS program
- An AJMC article concluded MA plans outperformed the FFS program in 9 out of 11 clinical quality measures

➤ MA and Part D plan performance is measured and compared, including through accreditation and CMS Star Ratings system, unlike the FFS program

- Almost 71% of MA enrollees in plans earning at least 4 stars in 2016

MA and Part D Plan Challenges



- Rising drug prices
- Challenge of star ratings for low income beneficiaries
- Health Insurance Tax
- ACA cuts