



Ensuring the Continued Success of Medicare Advantage

Medicare Advantage is a popular program providing Medicare beneficiaries with access to private health plan options that focus on coordinated, patient-centered care and offer benefits that are not available in traditional Fee-for-Service Medicare. Individuals are increasingly choosing Medicare Advantage because it provides the quality coverage and benefits they need at an affordable cost.

KEY FACTS

1 IN 3 MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES are enrolled in Medicare Advantage 

Medicare Advantage serves more than **21 MILLION** BENEFICIARIES

Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies collectively cover more than **3 MILLION PEOPLE** in Medicare Advantage plans 

BCBSA RECOMMENDS

BCBSA strongly supports policymakers' work to strengthen Medicare Advantage so that health plans can continue to provide affordability, care coordination and additional benefits for enrollees. Medicare Advantage plans increase choice for beneficiaries and provide cost protections not included in Fee-for-Service Medicare, such as a mandatory out-of-pocket maximum. There are three key strategies that are essential to ensure the continued strength of Medicare Advantage:

1 SUPPORT FLEXIBILITY

- Congress and the Administration recently implemented policies to allow more flexibility in effectively targeting care so that benefits can be tailored to meet patients' needs.
- These new flexibilities strengthen Medicare Advantage plans' ability to design benefits and cost-sharing around patients' specific chronic conditions and to partner with community groups to address social needs that can sometimes leave seniors without adequate access to the services they need.

2 MODERNIZE MEDICARE

- Advancements in technology can help address a range of issues – from access to care in underserved rural areas to management of chronic disease.
- Congress recently provided Medicare Advantage plans with more flexibility to incorporate telemedicine into their benefits. This will help millions of beneficiaries with a range of health conditions and challenges.

3 IMPROVE QUALITY

- Studies show that Medicare Advantage plans outperform traditional Fee-for-Service Medicare on a variety of quality measures, including reduced hospital admissions and emergency room visits. Medicare Advantage plans offer significant initiatives in primary care and preventive services, care coordination, case management and other activities designed to improve quality, with an emphasis on those with chronic conditions.
- The Medicare Advantage Star Quality System incentivizes health plans to improve quality, such as ensuring beneficiaries have flu shots and diabetic foot exams. This system could be even more effective by incorporating more measures tied to improvement in patient health with less reliance on measurements that assess process.