

MAKING MEDICARE BETTER FOR BENEFICIARIES

Open Enrollment: October 15 – December 7

NEW MEDICARE ADVANTAGE SUPPLEMENTAL **BENEFITS**

Beneficiaries in Medicare Advantage plans may now have new supplemental benefits that will enhance care:



Modifications to **help keep seniors safe in their homes**, like wheelchair ramps, stair rails or grab bars



Transportation to help patients get to doctors' visits



Medically-approved **non-opioid pain management** alternatives like therapeutic massages



More **in-home support** services and assistance for people with disabilities or medical conditions



Home-based hospice care



Respite care for caregivers

MORE CHOICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DIABETES

This year, seniors can now access **cutting edge technology** that delivers continuous insulin based on individual settings.



Medicare will now pay for devices that will allow seniors — and their families — to **use their smartphones** to continuously monitor blood sugar levels.

NEW PAYMENT FOR SERVICES – LEVERAGING COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Getting to the doctor can be a challenge for seniors, whether they live in rural or urban areas. Utilizing services via communication technology would be more convenient, have the potential to expand access to care, and help beneficiaries **connect with their physicians quickly**.

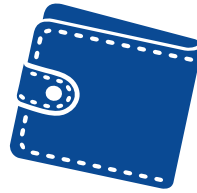


Under the Administration's new proposal, doctors could receive payment when seniors:

- Send a photo or video to their doctor to evaluate instead of driving in person to the office.
- Have their doctor check in on them and receive treatment and guidance through an electronic portal instead of going to the office.
- Connect with their doctor by phone or video chat to see if their condition warrants them going into the office.

LOWERING OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS

This year, CMS proposed that Medicare pay the same amount for the same services, no matter where patients receive care. These policies are projected to **save seniors \$150 million in lower copayments** for clinic visits at certain sites.



Another recent proposal would give patients the ability to receive more services at ambulatory surgical centers – giving Medicare beneficiaries **more choice and convenience** when accessing their health care.

And **4 out of 5 people** will pay a premium of **less than \$50** per month in 2019 for a Medicare Advantage Plan.

LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

CMS made sure that patients were seeing the benefit of drug discounts to hospitals, **saving seniors \$320 million in out-of-pocket drug costs** this year alone.



Provided our Part D plans, which cover drugs that patients pick up at a pharmacy, with more negotiating tools so they can put pressure on drug companies and get a good deal for patients. Part D plans will be able to make sure that beneficiaries have access to the lowest-cost drug that is clinically appropriate, while ensuring that beneficiaries receive high-quality care.

CONTROL OVER HEALTH DATA

This Administration wants to **give seniors control** over their own health information, through the **MyHealthEData** initiative.



Through the **Blue Button 2.0 program**, Medicare beneficiaries will be able to obtain and control their Medicare claims data in a digital format, and share it with caregivers and doctors to provide better care – this will organize medication lists, etc.

MORE COST TRANSPARENCY

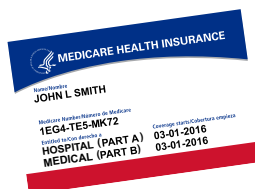
Effective January 1, 2019, **CMS specifically required hospitals to post standard charges on the internet**. Also, for the first time, CMS published data that shows year-over-year changes in the prices of drugs.



CMS also added **new tools** for seniors, including a tool that allows beneficiaries to estimate out of pocket costs before you get to the doctor's office and **compare costs** for procedures done at a hospital outpatient department or an ambulatory surgical center.

IMPROVEMENTS FOR CONSUMERS

Medicare is mailing **new Medicare cards** to all people with Medicare. Cards will have a new number instead of a Social Security Number to prevent fraud, fight identity theft and keep taxpayer dollars safe.



CMS will also offer a **live chat feature** when consumers are in the **Medicare Plan Finder** on Medicare.gov to give real time help.