Congress created Medicare Advantage (MA) in 2003 to provide America's seniors a convenient, coordinated option for their health coverage and to drive greater value in the Medicare program. Today, the evidence is clear: MA is working, providing exceptionally high value care for nearly 23 million seniors. The program provides all the benefits of traditional Medicare, plus enhanced benefits, high-value coverage, better health outcomes, greater transparency and superior customer experience – all at a lower price.

MA prioritizes quality over volume of care – encouraging more effective, coordinated and managed health care, unlike the fragmented, fee-for-service Medicare model.

MA utilizes the CMS Star Ratings system to measure and publicly report plan performance – providing complete transparency.

MA is the only government health program that measures and rewards quality coverage and care.

MA plans are rated on a 5 star scale – helping seniors shop for quality coverage.

In 2019, 72% of all MA enrollees are in plans rated 4 stars or higher. That is an increase of 46% since 2012 when the star ratings program began.1,2

Seniors are more satisfied with their MA plans compared to those in traditional Medicare (90% to 76%, respectively).3

98% of MA enrollees stay in the program from one year to the next.4

Improving health outcomes for seniors

MA outperforms traditional Medicare on health outcomes and keeps seniors healthy.

- MA has a 29% lower rate of potentially avoidable hospitalizations overall and lower rates for both acute (41.0% lower) and chronic (18.0% lower) hospitalizations.6
- MA plans spend on average 21.4% more on preventive services than traditional Medicare, keeping beneficiaries healthy and out of the hospital.6
- MA enrollees are 13.4% more likely to be screened for breast cancer compared to those in traditional Medicare.5

MA plans outperform fee-for-service Medicare on all 16 clinical quality measures, including prescription drug adherence and access to medications.6

MA provides a better patient experience, outperforming fee-for-service Medicare on measures such as getting appointments and care quickly, personal rating of health care quality and personal rating of a drug plan.6

For more information about Medicare Advantage, please contact Tricia Guay at tguay@achp.org.

Managing chronic conditions for healthier lives

MA plans help seniors with chronic and complex conditions effectively manage their care – seniors in MA plans are 73% less likely to have serious complications from diabetes compared to those in traditional Medicare.5

Under new flexibilities available in 2019, MA plans may provide new supplemental benefits not offered in traditional Medicare, such as adult day care, in-home and caregiver support, and additional benefits for the chronically ill.7

For chronically ill seniors, MA plans offer special, supplemental benefits for healthy food, non-medical transportation, indoor air quality equipment and structural home modifications, among others, none of which are provided by fee-for-service Medicare.8

MA dual eligible seniors, who receive benefits through both Medicare and Medicaid, saw their doctors more often, were hospitalized less frequently, and made fewer visits to the ER than dual eligible seniors in traditional Medicare.5

- 42% fewer ER visits
- 33% fewer hospitalizations
- 15.1% lower re-admission rates