

MAKING MEDICARE BETTER FOR BENEFICIARIES

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 or grocery store



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



More **in-home support** services like assistance with meals, bathing, and dressing



Home-based care to help seriously ill people be more comfortable



Support 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 **TELEHEALTH** SERVICES

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**.



For the first time all doctors can 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.



Medicare gives 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

Saved seniors \$470 million in out of pocket costs, through lowering drug costs and copays for doctor's office visits.



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. Plans will be able to make sure that beneficiaries have access to new generic drugs sooner, 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. Seniors can use their health information to find providers and services they need, and make informed decisions on their care.



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, coordinate care across doctors, and reduce duplicative care.

MORE PRICE 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

People with Medicare received new Medicare cards by mail and have the option to print at home. Cards have a new number instead of a Social Security Number to prevent fraud, fight identity theft and keep taxpayer dollars safe.



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

Improving **Medicare Plan Finder**, which will give beneficiaries a better tool to compare coverage options.

eMEDICARE – BUILDING A SEAMLESS USER EXPERIENCE

As part of this multi-year initiative to update Medicare resources, beneficiaries have new ways to get more personalized information.

eMedicare

- Improved **coverage wizard** to compare Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage
- Out of pocket **cost estimator** showing overall costs and prescription drug costs
- Launched a new **"What's Covered"** app that lets seniors quickly see whether Medicare covers a specific medical item or service.