



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

DATE: December 15, 2023
TO: Medicare-enrolled Hospice Providers
FROM: Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center
SUBJECT: IMPORTANT NOTICE: Billing Information Update Beginning January 1, 2024

Starting in January 2021, some plans offered by certain Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) include the Medicare hospice benefit in their benefits package as part of a CMS Innovation Center Model. Under the Model, the participating MAOs are responsible for coverage and payment of all services covered by Original Medicare, including hospice. In 2024, there are changes to the participating plans in the Model.

CMS is here to help you prepare for this new Model year.

Which MAOs are in the Model for 2024?

New Participants in 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Sacramento Capital Funding LLC with plans in select counties in Texas • Sentara Health Care with plans in select counties in Florida
Participants Returning from 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambia Health Solutions, Inc. with <i>new and returning</i> plans in select counties in Oregon, Utah, and Washington • CVS Health Corporation with <i>returning</i> plans in select counties in Ohio and Pennsylvania • Guidewell Mutual Holding Corporation with <i>new and returning</i> plans in select counties in Puerto Rico • Hawaii Medical Service Association with <i>returning</i> plans in select counties in Hawaii • Highmark Health with <i>returning</i> plans in select counties in Pennsylvania • Humana Inc. with <i>new and returning</i> plans in select counties in Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia, and Wisconsin • Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. with <i>returning</i> plans in select counties in California • Louisiana Health Service & Indemnity Company with <i>new and returning</i> plans in select counties in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi • Marquis Companies I, Inc. with <i>returning</i> plans in select counties in Oregon • SCAN Group with <i>returning</i> plans in select counties in California • Visiting Nurse Service of New York with <i>returning</i> plans in select counties in New York

NOTE: Only SELECT plans are participating in the Model. CMS published a spreadsheet listing all plans, also known as plan benefit packages (PBPs), offered by the MAOs participating in the Model: <https://tinyurl.com/CY24HospiceMAOs>. This spreadsheet contains plan contacts under the tab “CY24 VBID Hospice MAO Contact.” Additionally, you can find contact information for MAOs that participated in previous years, but will not participate in 2024, in the same spreadsheet. You should continue to bill these non-returning MAOs for hospice care delivered to patients whose elections began when the non-returning MAO was in the Model.

Some of the MAOs participating in the Model in 2024 are returning participants because they offered plans under the Model in 2023, 2022, and/or 2021. You may currently provide hospice care to a patient with coverage from a participating plan in 2023, who remained enrolled in that plan and elected hospice in 2023, and their hospice stay extends into 2024. If this occurs, continue to bill the plan through the end of the patient’s hospice stay. You may also currently provide hospice care to a patient with coverage from a participating plan in 2022, who remained enrolled in that plan and elected hospice in 2022, and their hospice stay extends into 2024. If this occurs, continue to bill the plan through the end of the patient’s hospice stay. If you provide hospice care to a patient with coverage from a new plan in 2024, these changes only apply if the patient’s hospice election begins on or after January 1, 2024.

4 Things to Know About Claims for Patients in this Model:

1. You must send all notices and claims to **both** the participating MAO **and** your MAC. The MAO will process payment, and the MAC will process the claims for informational and operational purposes and for CMS to monitor the Model.
2. If you contract to provide hospice services with the plan, be sure to confirm billing and processing steps before January 1, 2024, as they may be different.

Note: While we encourage you to reach out to participating MAOs about contracting opportunities, you are not required to contract. If you choose not to contract, a participating MAO must pay you at Original Medicare rates for Medicare-covered hospice care.

3. The Model doesn’t permit prior authorization requirements around hospice elections or transitions between different levels of hospice care.
4. Please keep in mind that a patient may travel for their hospice care so you may see a patient enrolled in one of the participating plans offering coverage not in your service area. For example, a patient with coverage from a participating plan whose service area is in Ohio may travel to receive hospice care from you in Florida. You should submit all notices and claims to the plan in Ohio.

Where do I get more information?

As always, we are committed to providing you with the support you need. For more information:

- Visit the Hospice-Provider VBID webpage at <https://tinyurl.com/VBIDhospice>
- Contact us at VBID@cms.hhs.gov

Thank you for the essential care you provide to your Medicare patients.

- ❑ **STEP 2:** If the patient is in an MA plan, identify the MA contract number and plan benefit package identification information on the MA enrollment card or by using one of the online tools or services in Step 1.

It will look like this: H#####. For example, H1234-001.

- ❑ **STEP 3:** Compare the information from Step 2 with the list of participating plans' information available on the Model webpage at <https://tinyurl.com/VBIDhospice> or available for you to directly download at <https://tinyurl.com/2024HospiceMAOs>.

For returning plans

If you match this information to a patient whose hospice election began *on or after January 1, 2021* and they are enrolled in a *returning* plan that began participating on January 1, 2021, your patient is in the Model.

If you match this information to a patient whose hospice election began *on or after January 1, 2022* and they are enrolled in a *returning* plan that began participating on January 1, 2022, your patient is in the Model.

If you match this information to a patient whose hospice election began *on or after January 1, 2023* and they are enrolled in a *returning* plan that began participating on January 1, 2023, your patient is in the Model.

If you match this information to a patient whose hospice election began *on or after January 1, 2024* and they are enrolled in a *new* plan, your patient is in the Model.

Please note: This is not a comprehensive review of all possible billing scenarios. If you have additional questions, please contact CMS at VBID@CMS.HHS.gov.

- ❑ **STEP 4:** If your patient is in a participating plan, check the billing and claims processes for the specific participating plan.

Please note: Plan contact information is available on the Model webpage. Participating MAOs in your service area will also be reaching out to you with billing information.

- ❑ **STEP 5:** Submit all notices and hospice claims to **both** your MAC and the participating MAO.

For assistance in triaging any issues or questions with billing, please contact your patient's MAO, your local MAC, or CMS at VBID@CMS.HHS.gov.

For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/VBIDhospice>, or email VBID@CMS.HHS.gov.