

## **HPMS E-Mail**

**Date:** December 29, 2025

**Subject:** BALANCE Model Announcement

Last week the CMS Innovation Center announced the Better Approaches to Lifestyle and Nutrition for Comprehensive Health (BALANCE) Model, accompanied with a Notice of Intent (NOI) for Part D Sponsors, to support continued development of the Model and obtain input from potential participants.

The CMS Innovation Center is proposing a voluntary Medicaid and Medicare Part D payment model starting in May 2026 for Medicaid and January 2027 for Medicare Part D that tests whether an approach where CMS (acting on behalf of state Medicaid agencies and Part D sponsors) negotiates expanded coverage of medications for weight management, paired with beneficiary access to healthy lifestyle supports, preserves or enhances quality of care (including improved cardiometabolic health) for beneficiaries while reducing or maintaining program expenditures.

More information on the Model can be found on the [CMS Model Webpage](#). The [NOI](#) is open for responses through January 8, 2026 and we encourage Part D Sponsors to review and share input.