



**MEDICARE DRUG & HEALTH PLAN CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION GROUP**

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DATE: December 3, 2020

TO: Medicare Advantage Organizations

FROM: Kathryn A. Coleman  
Director

SUBJECT: Coverage of the Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institution Benefit

This memo reminds Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) of their responsibility to cover care in a religious nonmedical health care institution (RNHCI) for eligible enrollees.

RNHCI's furnish nonmedical nursing items and services to individuals who choose to rely solely upon a religious method of healing, and for whom the acceptance of medical services would be inconsistent with their religious beliefs. Eligible RNHCI's are long-term health care facilities certified by Medicare where beneficiaries who need a skilled nursing facility-level of care may choose to go to receive treatment.

Care provided in RNHCI's is covered under original Medicare as a Part A inpatient service, based on Section 1821 of the Social Security Act and the regulations at 42 CFR Part 403, Subpart G regarding conditions of coverage of RNHCI services.

MAOs should work with RNHCI's to ensure that enrollees have full and timely access to this Medicare-covered benefit. Please send questions regarding the RNHCI benefit to the Medicare Part C policy mailbox at: <https://dpap.lmi.org/>.