

Key 2021 Medicare Advantage Dates

This calendar of key Medicare Advantage (MA) dates was developed to assist states and health plans in the implementation of integrated care programs for people dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.¹ For a complete list of MA and Part D Prescription Drug plan (PDP) dates for calendar year 2021 and early 2022, see: <https://hpms.cms.gov/app/ng/home/>.

| Date | Event |
|------------------------|---|
| January 1 | Contract year starts and enrollment effective date. |
| January 1 | Low Income Subsidy (LIS) Medicare Part D reassignment for dually eligible individuals, or movement of LIS Medicare beneficiaries from their current Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) or terminating Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan (MA-PD) to another PDP. |
| January 1- March 31 | Annual Medicare Advantage (MA) Open Enrollment Period, during which an individual can enroll in, disenroll from, or change Medicare Advantage plans, including Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) and Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs). |
| January 7 | MA application for following Calendar Year (CY) released on CMS website (for new applications or service area expansions). |
| January 8 | Model of Care (MOC) renewal submission period begins for Special Needs Plans with approvals ending December 31, 2021. |
| January 15 | 2021 Final Announcement of MA Capitation Rates and MA/Part D Payment Policies released. |
| January 22 | Final day for plans to submit Notices of Intent to Apply (NOIAs) to CMS for CY 2022. ² |
| February 17 | MA and Part D plan applications for CY 2022 due to CMS. |
| February 17 | MOC renewal submissions due for Special Needs Plans with MOC approvals ending as of December 31, 2021. |
| March 23 | Parent Organization designation updates from MA Organizations (MAOs) and sponsors due to CMS. ³ |
| April 9 | Plan Creation Module, Plan Benefit Package (PBP) module, and Bid Pricing Tool software released in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS); organizations interested in offering a MA, PDP, or MMP product in CY 2022 must submit a PBP that accurately describes the coverage details and cost-sharing for all covered benefits by June 7. ⁴ |
| May | Release of CY 2022 model templates for MA plan Annual Notice of Change, Evidence of Coverage, LIS rider, Part D Explanation of Benefits, formularies, transition notice, provider directory, pharmacy directory, and member identification cards. State-specific model documents for MMPs are released between May and July. Plans are able to begin uploading these documents into HPMS for CMS review in July. ⁵ |
| May 27 | CY 2022 D-SNP module released for D-SNPs to upload required State Medicaid Agency Contracts (SMACs) and Contract Matrices in HPMS. |

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| Date | Event |
|------------------------------|---|
| June | CMS conducts provider network adequacy reviews for MA plans, including D-SNPs. ⁶ |
| June 7 | Deadline for all Medicare plans (MA and Part D) to submit CY 2022 bids and formulary files; plans (including MMPs) deciding not to renew their contracts must notify CMS in writing. |
| June 11 | Deadline for all Medicare plans (MA and Part D) to submit CY 2022 supplemental formulary files (including submission of MMP Additional Demonstration Drug (ADD) files). |
| July 6 | D-SNP applicants must submit SMACs and contract matrix to CMS in HPMS. |
| Late July | Part D national average monthly bid amount (NAMBA) and the Part D regional low-income premium subsidy amounts released. |
| Late July | Submission period begins for plans to submit CY 2022 marketing materials to CMS for review via the HPMS Marketing Module. |
| No Later than July 29 | MA organizations that receive, on or before this date, a termination notice from CMS with an effective date of December 31, 2021, must issue notices to their Medicare enrollees at least 90 days prior to the effective date of the termination. |
| July-August | Release of state-specific marketing guidance for MMPs. |
| August-September | Plan preview periods of Part C & D Star Ratings in HPMS. ⁷ |
| Late August | D-SNPs notified by CMS of final determinations of integration status and sanctions based on CY 2022 SMACs. |
| Mid-September | CMS fully executes MA and PDP contracts with plans. |
| September 30 | Deadline for all MA, MA-PD, MMP, PDP, and cost-based plans (including those not offering Part D and those that do offer Part D) to send the standardized Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) and LIS rider to current enrollees. |
| October 1 | MA and Medicare Part D plan marketing begins for CY 2022. |
| October 1 | Deadline by which enrollees of non-renewing PDPs, MA plans, MA-PD plans, MMPs, and cost-based plans must receive final personalized beneficiary non-renewal notification letters. |
| Early/Mid October | Medicare Advantage and Part D plan Star Ratings released on Medicare.gov. |
| Mid-October | CMS releases CY 2023 Notice of Intent to Apply (NOIA) for new contracts or contract extensions. CMS releases the CY 2022 Landscape files, identifying approved and sanctioned MA plans. |
| October 15 | Deadline for all MA, MA-PD, MMP, PDP, and cost-based plans (including those not offering Part D and those that do offer Part D) to send the following documents (or notification, if permitted) to current enrollees: Evidence of Coverage (EOC); abridged or comprehensive formularies; and provider/pharmacy directories. |
| October 15 | Annual Election Period begins. Medicare beneficiaries can enroll in MA or Part D plans for CY 2022. |

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| Date | Event |
|--------------------|--|
| November 11 | CY 2023 NOIA deadline to ensure access to HPMS for new MA or PDP contracts or plans that wish to expand their service areas. |
| December 7 | End of the Annual Election Period. |

ABOUT THE INTEGRATED CARE RESOURCE CENTER

The *Integrated Care Resource Center* is a national initiative of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office to help states improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of care for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees. The state technical assistance activities provided by the *Integrated Care Resource Center* are coordinated by **Mathematica** and the **Center for Health Care Strategies**. For more information, visit www.integratedcareresourcecenter.com.

ENDNOTES

¹ The dates in this calendar are for 2021 (and early 2022) Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plan activities. The exact dates of activities in future years are subject to change.

² CMS requires organizations planning to offer Medicare Part D or MA plans (including D-SNPs and MMPs) to submit a Notice of Intent to Apply if they would like to offer a new plan in 2022 or if they would like to expand the service area of an existing plan.

³ This is required of all MAOs, but is especially important for D-SNPs that wish to be designated as a Fully Integrated D-SNP (FIDE SNP) or a Highly Integrated D-SNP (HIDE SNP) in 2022. To qualify as a FIDE SNP or HIDE SNP, a MAO must demonstrate that Medicaid benefits are covered by either: (1) the same legal entity as the D-SNP; or (2) the same parent company as the D-SNP. For more information about FIDE SNPs and HIDE SNPs, see the following CMS memorandum issued to D-SNPs on January 17, 2020: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/cy2021dsnpsmedicaremedicaidintegrationrequirements.pdf>

⁴ States interested in requiring plans to cover certain benefits, including supplemental benefits, will want to have discussions with plans well in advance of the June 7 deadline.

⁵ To help ensure that these documents represent state policies regarding Medicare-Medicaid integration and accurately describe Medicaid benefits, states may want to review draft templates before plans submit them to CMS.

⁶ These network adequacy reviews do not apply to MMPs.

⁷ States can use the various Part C and D measures in the MA star ratings to assess the quality and performance of MA plans operating in their state. Note that the star ratings are assigned at the contract level, not at the individual plan level. A single MA contract may include more than one type of SNP as well as non-SNP MA plans. For more information, see the ICRC tip sheet “How States Can Use Medicare Advantage Star Ratings to Assess D-SNP Quality and Performance.” Available at: <https://www.integratedcareresourcecenter.com/sites/default/files/MA%20Star%20Ratings%20Guide.pdf>