



June 12, 2023

Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Secretary Becerra and Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

On behalf of the Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP), I am excited to share the release of *MA for Tomorrow*, an ambitious collection of policy proposals that embrace the success of the Medicare Advantage (MA) program while advancing practical ideas that take MA to the next level in coverage and care for America's seniors.

MA is the choice of America's seniors – 31 million and counting. In 22 states, a majority of Medicare-eligible seniors are enrolled in the managed care alternative to traditional fee-for-service Medicare. Most consumers enjoy zero-dollar premium plans with prescription drug coverage included. With consistently high-quality ratings, expanded benefits and a record of reaching minority populations, this public-private partnership is an undeniable success. However, like many successful programs, MA must evolve to keep pace with medical advances and address unintended loopholes so it can continue delivering high-quality outcomes and financial value for beneficiaries and taxpayers. At ACHP, we recognize that even successful programs need a refresh.

ACHP is uniquely positioned to take on the task of improving the MA program. ACHP members represent the nation's top-performing, non-profit health organizations improving affordability and outcomes in the health care system for millions of Americans across nearly 40 states and D.C.

MA for Tomorrow moves past the political food fight to improve the program for Baby Boomers and beyond. *MA for Tomorrow* pushes the health sector to even higher performance, curtails misaligned incentives and fosters competition that drives value. We identify concrete actions by policymakers and look forward to working with you to achieve this exciting vision.

MA for Tomorrow details specific steps for a MA program that provides greater choice, higher quality and long-term sustainability, based on five pillars:

- **Raising the Bar on Quality**: *MA for Tomorrow* transitions away from topped out process measures, focusing on patient experience and outcomes, improving the collection of accurate and timely consumer feedback and establishing thresholds to recognize high-quality and excellence.



- Improving Consumer Navigation: *MA for Tomorrow* builds on initial efforts to rein in misleading marketing practices, limits broker payments and incentivizes enrollment in high-quality plans.
- Advancing Risk Adjustment for Care, not Codes: *MA for Tomorrow* overhauls the risk adjustment model by recalibrating the model on encounter data, scaling coding intensity adjustments to address outliers and targeting audits to the most aggressive risk adjustment behaviors.
- Modernizing Network Composition: *MA for Tomorrow* establishes contemporary network adequacy standards that embrace virtual care, remote monitoring and other innovative delivery models.
- Transforming Benchmarks: *MA for Tomorrow* transforms the MA benchmark methodology, reducing the reliance on local fee-for-service costs and incorporating stronger incentives for achieving high-quality.

MA for Tomorrow ensures future generations of seniors have affordable choices, easy navigation of plan options and better health outcomes, all while protecting the taxpayer dollar and Medicare Trust Fund. We look forward to working with you in support of the more than 31 million seniors and counting enrolled in MA. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Michael Bagel, ACHP Associate Vice President, Public Policy at mbagel@achp.org.

Regards,

Ceci Connolly, President and CEO
cconnolly@achp.org

Cc:

Jon Blum, Principal Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer, CMS

Meena Seshamani, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicare, CMS

Stacy Sanders, Counselor to the Secretary, HHS

Neera Tanden, Director, Domestic Policy Council, Executive Office of the President

Christen Linke-Young, Deputy Director for Health and Veterans, Domestic Policy Council, Executive Office of the President

Topher Spiro, Associate Director for Health, Office of Management and Budget