Congress created Medicare Advantage (MA) in 2003 to provide America’s seniors a convenient, coordinated option for their health coverage and to drive greater value and accountability in the Medicare program. Today, the evidence is clear: MA is working, providing exceptional coverage and care for nearly 25 million seniors. The program provides all the benefits of traditional Medicare, plus enhanced benefits, high value coverage, better health outcomes, greater transparency and superior customer experience – all at a lower price.

Seniors are choosing MA in record numbers. MA enrollment will grow significantly, totaling 33 million by the year 2030.¹

At the same time, enrollment in traditional Medicare is slowing, down more than 100,000 people in the last year, while MA has increased 1.6 million people.²

MA serves a diverse population, covering the majority of Hispanic American seniors and nearly half of all Asian-American seniors. In addition, nearly 49% of African Americans choose MA when they turn 65.³

Choose MA over traditional Medicare

52% Hispanic Americans
49% African Americans
35% Asian Americans

Since 2014, MA enrollment has grown by more than 53%.¹

² Medicare Enrollment Dashboard, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, July 2019, https://go.cms.gov/31Tr3kY
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE
The Choice of America’s Seniors

More for Every Health Care Dollar

MA offers **all-in-one coverage** (Parts A and B) and a zero-to-low-cost Part D drug benefit, making it a convenient, coordinated option for seniors. MA provides managed health care based on a monthly payment per enrollee rather than paying a fee for each individual medical service.

**60%** of seniors pay no **premium** for MA and the program caps out-of-pocket expenses, giving seniors predictability and REAL control over costs.

MA costs **U.S. taxpayers 9.5% less per enrollee** than traditional Medicare - while offering additional benefits and services.

MA prioritizes preventive care, keeping seniors healthy and out of the hospital and emergency rooms – two of the most expensive and medically dangerous entry points in the health system. MA beneficiaries experience **23% fewer hospitalizations** and **33% fewer ER visits** than beneficiaries in fee-for-service Medicare.

**60%** of seniors pay no **premium** for MA and the program caps out-of-pocket expenses, giving seniors predictability and REAL control over costs.

**Higher Standards, Greater Transparency and Quality Coverage**

MA prioritizes quality over volume — aligning incentives around caring for people by encouraging more effective, coordinated care, unlike the fragmented, fee-for-service model. Focused on quality, MA utilizes the CMS Star Ratings system to **measure and publicly report plan performance**. MA is the only government health program that measures and rewards high-quality, efficient, and coordinated care.

MA outperforms traditional Medicare on health outcomes:

- **MA has a nearly 29% lower rate** of potentially avoidable hospitalizations.
- **41% fewer avoidable acute hospitalizations.**
- **18% fewer** avoidable chronic hospitalizations and higher rates of preventive tests, such as breast cancer screenings.

For more information about Medicare Advantage, please contact Tricia Guay at tguay@achp.org.

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