

On March 3, 2017, this letter was submitted to Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price and members of Congress:

Our organizations strongly support the Medicare Advantage program, which offers critical, evidence-based care coordination and population health management programs to more than 18 million seniors, improving their overall health and wellbeing. Medicare Advantage allows for the delivery of high quality care and has far reaching impact across the full continuum of health. This program's coordinated approach to care empowers providers to deliver the highest quality services to millions of Americans. We urge policymakers to preserve Medicare Advantage to continue providing superior services to patients – including those who receive retiree health benefits through an employer – ranging from those who are well to seniors with multiple and complex chronic conditions.

To ensure retirees continue to have access to these important benefits and programs, now is the time to protect Medicare Advantage by eliminating any further cuts via the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) coding intensity adjustment and benchmark cap.

The ACA coding intensity adjustment and benchmark cap cuts stifle efforts to coordinate and improve the quality of care for seniors, and deter ongoing innovation in the Medicare Advantage program, including Employer Group Waiver Plans. Medicare Advantage offers retirees additional services that are unavailable in ordinary Fee-for-Service Medicare. For example, Medicare Advantage includes individually-targeted programs to prevent falls, facilitate transportation to primary care visits, and ensure seniors receive the right care at the right time. These best practices result in 13%-20% lower preventable re-admission rates and 20% more preventive care visits compared to traditional Fee-For-Service Medicare.

Medicare Advantage offers specific and unique innovations and supplemental benefits –such as dental, vision and physical fitness – to improve health for the 66% of Medicare beneficiaries who have multiple chronic conditions. The coding intensity adjustment and benchmark cap cuts directly limit Medicare Advantage's progress in activities to keep beneficiaries healthy, such as weight loss programs and remote patient monitoring that connects patients and clinicians to share timely health data.

Medicare Advantage is actively improving population health for the 33% of Medicare beneficiaries in the program. If the ACA Medicare Advantage coding intensity adjustment and benchmark cap cuts stay in place Medicare Advantage's comprehensive approaches to care delivery will be compromised. Congress and CMS should use their authority to eliminate any further cuts to Medicare Advantage by stopping the coding intensity adjustment and benchmark cap at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you,

American Benefits Council

Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness

National Association of Manufacturers

National Minority Quality Forum

National Retail Federation

Population Health Alliance

The ERISA Industry Committee

Tivity Health

U.S. Chamber of Commerce