Seize the opportunity:

Navigate the 2026 CMS changes to Medicare Advantage with confidence



Is your strategy robust enough to meet the new CMS challenges? Are you prepared to turn impending changes into a strategic advantage?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed significant changes to Medicare Advantage (MA) plans going into effect for 2026. These changes are poised to reshape the landscape of healthcare delivery and reimbursement, making it crucial for stakeholders to act swiftly and decisively.

adapt could result in financial losses, decreased market share, and compromised patient care. Conversely, those who navigate these changes effectively stand to gain a significant competitive edge.

How these changes affect your plan will depend on how you prepare. Failing to

Increased payments: Proposed 4.3% increase (over \$21B) in MA payments to plans on average year-over-year in CY 2026

What this does

Provides expanded resources to enhance the quality and breadth of services and improve care for beneficiaries

Affords greater financial stability so plans can better manage costs and invest in long-term improvements

How MA Plans should prepare

Formulate a plan for managing funds, focusing on programs and services that will have the greatest impact on quality.

Evaluate resource allocation needed to execute on quality improvement investments.

Improved access to care: Policies enacted to reduce barriers caused by inappropriate use of prior authorizations and artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare decisions

What this does

Sets clearer requirements to ensure MA plans are not using internal criteria that go beyond standard Medicare coverage

Ensures the use of Al does not create barriers to accessing health services

How MA Plans should prepare

Review current prior authorization processes for transparency and non-compliance with proposed regulations.

Prepare for additional training needed to comply with new standards for prior authorization and AI usage.

Expanded coverage: Aims to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of care for beneficiaries

What this does

Allows coverage for anti-obesity medications

Enhances behavioral health services

services like vaccines Caps the cost of insulin at \$35/month

Improves access to preventative

dental, vision and hearing services

Expands supplemental benefits such as

How MA Plans should prepare

Assess the potential for plan design adjustments and allocation of rebate dollars

Examine behavioral health provider networks for coverage adequacy and likely expansion of contracts

Ensure processes are in place for identifying missing annual wellness visits and preventative care

compete on quality

Enhanced quality: Updates made to the MA Star Rating system to ensure MA and Part D plans

What this does Holds MA plans more accountable

for delivering high-quality care Helps beneficiaries choose

high-quality plans

Prepare an action plan for improving

How MA Plans should prepare

or maintaining Star ratings Forecast revenue for possible

investment in new initiatives to meet

higher quality standards

into competitive advantages. Now is the time to act decisively, innovate boldly, and position your organization at the forefront of this evolving landscape. Here are your immediate next steps:

The future of Medicare Advantage is being shaped today—ensure your organization is

leading the charge. With the right strategies, MA plans can turn potential compliance burdens

MA plans will need strategic insights into quality measure

readiness to take action:

Assess your analytics

performance, gaps in care, provider network adequacy and performance, and provider payments to ensure quality. Partner with the right vendor

to enable a unified analytics platform that facilitates action based on insights.

Tracking and ensuring accountability for execution of

Develop strategic goals and

initiatives for compliance:

to the regulatory impacts can be a full-time job. With the right technology, MA plans can streamline this process by leveraging playbooks

that guide next steps.

changes with confidence and precision.

strategic action plans to respond

opportunities for improvement

framework:

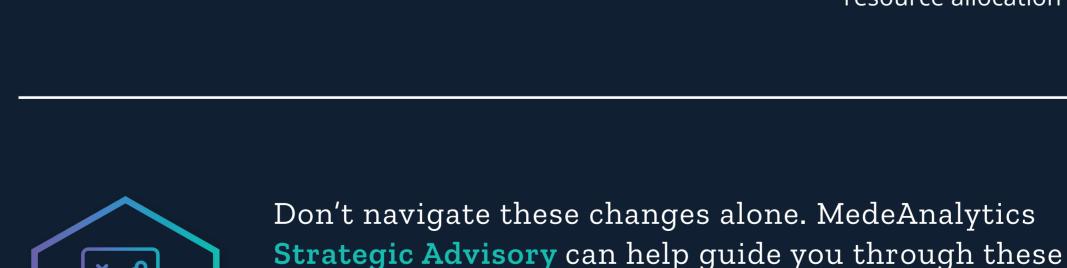
and the steps needed to maintain compliance with the regulations can be timeconsuming and require specialized skills. Working with a strategic consulting partner can pay

Seek guidance on a strategic

Knowing where there are

resource allocation and ROI.

significant dividends in terms of



Don't navigate these changes alone. MedeAnalytics

Schedule your consultation



Mede/Analytics®