



The Diversified Services Group, Inc.
A Financial Services Consultancy



Senior Healthcare Executive Forum (SHEF)

CMS presentation on Current Medicare July 20, 2021, 3:00 PM, EST

Below are links to suggested (not mandatory) items of interest related to our upcoming sessions on Medicare. They are for your (or your team's) reference if you choose to use them. We look forward to seeing you at the session.

Articles & Announcements:

[CMS proposes to expand the Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model nationwide](#)

Public and private healthcare providers alike are keen on expanding their home health programs after seeing how well it worked during the pandemic, including its ability to lower costs by keeping patients out of the hospital. Having a medical home platform, for example, helps to [manage care](#) and avoid unnecessary ER visits. Each patient a provider is able to treat by telehealth at home represents potential avoidance of a costly ER visit or hospital stay.

[Outdated Medicare rules threaten older Americans' access to home medical equipment](#)

Patients and providers are grappling with shortages of everything from medical oxygen to feeding tubes. A [recent survey](#) of 500 home medical equipment suppliers found that 97% had experienced significant delays in receiving medical equipment. Prices are rising. Nitrile gloves that once cost \$2 for 100 gloves now retail for [15 times as much](#). More than half of home medical equipment suppliers say their costs for Covid-related supplies have increased — in some cases by [as much as 30%](#).

[Costco approach could have saved Medicare \\$2.6 billion in drug spending, analysis shows](#)

"Patient cost-sharing for generics in Medicare Part D tends to be low, but this masks a system that is not currently set up to deliver value to the program overall," she added. "While price competition is strong for these drugs, the program leaves room for intermediaries to capture much of this value. Our findings show that in systems like Costco's, where incentives are set up to deliver value to the consumer, that is what happens."

[Rising drug prices continue to hit seniors](#)

Here we are just a few days into July and price hikes averaging 3.6% have already been announced for 32 brand drugs, says GoodRX, a medical and healthcare services provider. For all of 2020 prices were hiked for 67 drugs.

After studying the 20 most common specialty medications filled by Medicare Part D, on average the drugs will cost Medicare patients at least \$3,000 annually in 2021,

Health Affairs Studies & Surveys: (Subscription \$78 Online)

[Comparing Medicare Advantage And Traditional Medicare: A Systematic Review](#)

Medicare Advantage enrollment has almost doubled since 2010 and now accounts for more than a third of all Medicare beneficiaries. Evidence from forty-eight studies showed that in most or all comparisons, Medicare Advantage was associated with more preventive care visits, fewer hospital admissions and emergency department visits, shorter hospital and skilled nursing facility lengths-of-stay, and lower health care spending. Medicare Advantage outperformed traditional Medicare in most studies comparing quality-of-care metrics. However, the evidence on patient experience, readmission rates, mortality, and racial/ethnic disparities did not show a trend of better performance in Medicare Advantage.

[Rural Enrollees In Medicare Advantage Have Substantial Rates Of Switching To Traditional Medicare](#)

Survey findings: Switching from traditional Medicare to Medicare Advantage was uncommon among enrollees, both rural (1.7 percent) and nonrural (2.2 percent). Switching from Medicare Advantage to traditional Medicare was more common in both settings, especially for rural enrollees (10.5 percent) compared with nonrural enrollees (5.0 percent). The differential was even greater among rural enrollees who were high cost or high need.

For more information about SHEEF or this session, please contact:

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