

Medicare Compliance FDR newsletter

Quarter 2, 2024

Medicare Advantage and Part D 2025 final rule

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final rule for the 2025 Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D programs, on April 5, 2025. Key areas of focus include revisions to Annual Health Equity analysis of Utilization Management (UM) policies, Behavioral Health Provider Network Adequacy, enhancements to the Medication Therapy Management (MTM), new standards for Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill and a new Mid-year Enrollee Notification of available Supplemental Benefits.

Outlined below are some key changes included in the rule:

Annual Health Equity analysis of UM policies: requires that MA organizations analyze their UM policies and procedures from a health equity perspective annually. For CY2025, the UM committee will have additional responsibilities. They must:

- Include at least one committee member with expertise in health equity,
- Conduct annual plan-level health equity analysis of prior authorization policies and procedures used by the plan, and
- Must the results made publicly available on the plan's website.

The objective of the health equity analysis is to create additional transparency and identify disproportionate impacts of UM policies and procedures on enrollees who receive the Part D low-income subsidy, who are dually eligible, or who have a disability.

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Quick links

- **Medicare managed care manual**
- **Medicare prescription drug benefit manual**
- **CVS Health Code of Conduct (updated March 2024)**

Exclusion list links:

- **OIG list of excluded individuals and entities (LEIE)**
- **GSA System for Award Management (SAM)**

Links not working? Go to **SAM.gov/SAM/** to access the site directly.

We have a robust Medicare Compliance program, including communication with our Medicare FDRs. Our Medicare Compliance Officer is Patrick Jeswald. Questions or concerns? Email **MedicareFDR@Aetna.com**

MTM program: CMS has expanded the eligibility criteria to help ensure more beneficiaries receive comprehensive medication reviews and management.

- Targeting criteria to include ten core chronic diseases identified by CMS;
- Must include all Part D maintenance drugs with option to include all Part D drugs in their targeting criteria; and
- MTM cost threshold calculation to be equal with the average annual cost of eight generic drugs (set at \$1,623 for CY 2025).

By adding MTM services with larger care management strategies, the goal is to improve medication adherence, reduce adverse drug events, and enhance overall health outcomes.

CVS Health® is actively reviewing all the changes in this final rule. You will hear from us if we need your organization to implement changes for the services you perform for our organization.

2024 Training distribution and annual compliance attestation

CVS Health issues compliance training and requires completion of a Medicare Compliance **attestation** within 90 days of contracting and annually thereafter to our First Tier, Downstream, and Related Entities (FDRs). This important compliance activity is designed to meet Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulatory requirements and allows us to confirm your organization's compliance with Medicare requirements.

Training materials include:

- CVS Health Code of Conduct
- FDR Guidebook

The annual process for Supplier/Vendors will kick off in August. The training communication and

attestation process is already underway for our providers, delegates, and sales partners. We appreciate your prompt attention and cooperation in completing the necessary steps timely.

Should you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our compliance team by sending us an [email](#).

Change is coming to SAM.gov exclusions APIs

General Services Administration (GSA) [announced](#) earlier this year that they will be making changes to SAM.gov during September 2024. As part of GSA's ongoing efforts to simplify compliance with federal acquisition regulations, they are updating the SAM.gov exclusions application programming interface (API) to incorporate an additional data element. If your organization uses the SAM.GOV API today, and you are not using Version 4 (V4), we recommend you review the [GSA announcement](#) to know what actions your organization may need to take.

Failing to act could result in losing access to the exclusions data. No action is required if you do not use the Exclusions API or if your organization is already using V4.

Best practices for disciplinary standards and enforcement

Ensuring compliance with CMS regulations is crucial for First Tier, Downstream, and Related Entities (FDRs). Effective disciplinary standards and enforcement mechanisms are vital for maintaining a culture of accountability and integrity within an organization. By adopting comprehensive and transparent disciplinary processes, FDRs can promote ethical behavior and mitigate compliance risks.

Utilizing various communication methods to ensure widespread understanding and adherence to disciplinary standards is a best practice.

Newsletters

- Distribute regular newsletters that provide updates on compliance policies, share case studies, and highlight the importance of adhering to disciplinary standards.
- Newsletters should be accessible in the format that works best for your organization (electronically and/or print) to reach all employees.

Present at department staff meetings

- Conduct interactive presentations to discuss compliance issues, answer questions, and reinforce the importance of following established guidelines.
- This type of setting allows for real-time engagement and an opportunity for clarification/questions.

General Compliance training

- Organize periodic general compliance training that includes disciplinary standards and emphasizes the consequences of non-compliance.
- Use real-life scenarios to help employees understand the practical applications of the policies.

Intranet site

- Create a centralized repository for all compliance-related documents, policies, and training materials.
- Ensure the site is easily accessible to all employees, providing a go-to resource for compliance information.

Posters in employee work and break areas

- Use in high-traffic areas to serve as constant reminders of the importance of compliance.
- These visual cues help reinforce the message daily and keep compliance top-of-mind.

Cafeteria table tents

- Place in cafeteria areas to communicate key compliance messages in an informal setting.
- This approach ensures that employees encounter compliance reminders during their breaks, further embedding the importance of ethical behavior.

Using multiple communication methods, can create a comprehensive and engaging approach to promoting and enforcing disciplinary standards. It may not only help prevent violations, but also fosters a culture of integrity and accountability.

Looking for resources?



Our relationship with you — a First Tier, Downstream or Related Entity (FDR) — is important to us. We need you to help fulfill our contracts with CMS. And you can rely on us for the teamwork and support you need.

Read our **FDR Guide**; it includes a toolbox of resources. You can also find archived newsletters **online**. If you would like the CVS Health FDR Guidebook, a past newsletter, or have questions just email us at [**MedicareFDR@Aetna.com**](mailto:MedicareFDR@Aetna.com).

Need to report noncompliance or potential fraud, waste and abuse (FWA)?

Here are the different ways to report:

- **Call** the CVS Health Ethics Line at **1-877-287-2040 (TTY: 711)**
- **Visit [CVShealth.com/ethicsline](https://www.cvshealth.com/ethicsline)**
- **Write to** Chief Compliance Officer, CVS Health One CVS Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895