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ABOUT THE INTEGRATED CARE RESOURCE CENTER

The Integrated Care Resource Center (ICRC) is a national initiative of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to help states improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of care for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees.

The state technical assistance activities are coordinated by Mathematica Policy Research and the Center for Health Care Strategies. For more information, visit the ICRC website.

Integrated Care Updates

March 2015 Enrollment in Medicare-Medicaid Plans

Total Medicare-Medicaid Plan (MMP) enrollment across the nine states (CA, IL, MA, MI, NY, OH, SC, TX, and VA) currently implementing capitated model financial alignment demonstrations was 310,791 in early March 2015. Michigan and Texas began voluntary enrollment on March 1 and appear for the first time in this month's enrollment report.

MACPAC Report: Effects of Medicaid Coverage of Medicare Cost Sharing on Access to Care

The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) devoted a chapter in its March 2015 Report to Congress to the impact of Medicaid coverage of Medicare cost sharing on dually eligible enrollees' access to care. MACPAC-sponsored research summarized in Chapter 6 indicates that greater Medicaid coverage of Medicare cost sharing increases access to selected Medicare services for dually eligible enrollees. MACPAC noted also that the administrative burden of dealing with "crossover" Medicare claims can hinder payment of Medicare cost sharing and further contribute to access barriers for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees. MACPAC plans to examine the impact of Medicare Savings Program eligibility and enrollment issues on beneficiary access to cost sharing assistance. While MACPAC is not permitted to make recommendations on Medicare policy issues, it did recommend that states' role in paying for Medicare premiums and cost sharing should be reexamined in the context of Medicare policy discussions regarding benefit redesign and related issues.

MedPAC Report on Medicare Payment Policy

The Medicare Payment and Access Commission (MedPAC) March 2015 Report to Congress includes chapters that address areas where payment for Medicare and Medicaid services overlaps for dually eligible enrollees, including skilled nursing facility services, home health care services, and hospice services. States that want to work with their MMPs and Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) to improve coordination of these "overlapping" Medicare and Medicaid services can learn more from the MedPAC report about current issues and potential changes under consideration.

Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office Fiscal Year 2014 Report to Congress

This report briefly updates MMCO's work during FY 2014 and describes four legislative recommendations (included in the President's FY 2016 proposed budget) needed to improve care coordination and benefits for dually eligible enrollees:

- Create a pilot to expand eligibility for Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to individuals between ages 21 and 55;

- Ensure retroactive Medicare Part D coverage for newly-eligible low-income beneficiaries by making the current LI-NET demonstration permanent;
- Establish integrated appeals process for dually eligible enrollees in health plans that provide integrated Medicare and Medicaid benefits; and
- Allow for coordinated federal and state review of D-SNP marketing materials.

Related Resources

- [Improving Coordination of Home Health Services and Durable Medical Equipment for Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees in the Financial Alignment Initiative](#) (Integrated Care Resource Center/April 2014) This technical assistance brief outlines challenges caused by the overlap in Medicare and Medicaid coverage for home health services and durable medical equipment and describes options for addressing these issues in financial alignment demonstrations and other integrated care initiatives.

News and Key Upcoming Dates

Recent Integrated Care News	
February 18	MA applications due to CMS.
February	CMS releases advance notice of MA payment polices and draft call letter.
Mid-March	MedPAC and MACPAC release reports to Congress.
Key Upcoming Dates	
Spring	Mid-year Medicare Star ratings released.
April 6	Release of Final Call Letter for CY 2016.