

Key 2026 Medicare Advantage Dates

This calendar of key Medicare Advantage (MA) dates was developed to assist states in the development and implementation of integrated care programs for people dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.¹ The dates and information in this calendar are drawn from a more extensive calendar developed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). That more extensive calendar, which CMS updates on an ongoing basis, is available at <https://hpms.cms.gov/app/ng/home/>. (To view or download the full calendar, scroll to the bottom of this webpage and click “Download the Calendar.”)

Date	Event
January 1, 2026	Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D plan contract year starts; enrollment effective date for plan enrollments processed during the Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP) that took place between October 15 and December 7, 2025.
January 1- March 31, 2026	Annual MA Open Enrollment Period, during which an individual who is already enrolled in an MA plan – including dual eligible special needs plans (D-SNPs) – can switch to a different MA plan or disenroll from that MA plan to go back to original, fee-for-service Medicare (with or without a Part D prescription drug plan).
Early January 2026	CMS releases MA application for the next Calendar Year (CY) on the CMS website for new plan applications and organizations submitting service area expansions.
January 23, 2026	Final day for MA organizations to submit Notices of Intent to Apply (NOIAs) to CMS for CY2027. ²
January 26, 2026	CMS releases CY2027 Advance Notice of Methodological Changes for MA capitation rates and Part C and Part D payment policies.
February 3-23, 2026	CY2026 Part C and D reporting requirements data submission except for D-SNP Transmission of Admission Notification, and Medicare Prescription Payment Plan.
February 11, 2026	Deadline for MA organization submission to CMS of CY2027 applications for new MA and Part D plans or service area expansions for existing plans.
February 20, 2026	CMS releases instructional memo concerning updates to plan Parent Organization designations in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS).
February 24, 2026	CMS notifies MA organizations with CY2027 D-SNP look-alike plans.
March 19, 2026	MA organizations and Part D plan sponsors must submit to CMS parent organization designation updates. ³
March 31, 2026	CY2025 Part C and D reporting requirements resubmission deadline.

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Date	Event
April 1-June 15, 2026	Complete 2026 data validation of the CY2025 Part C and D reporting requirements.
Early April 2026	Deadline for MA organizations to submit full contract consolidation requests to CMS for CY2027.
April-May 2026	CMS releases guidance for MA plans, including D-SNPs, regarding CY2027 renewal options, including crosswalks.
No later than April 6, 2026	CMS releases final announcement of CY2027 MA capitation rates and Part C and D payment policies.
April 9, 2026	CMS releases guidance for D-SNP look-alikes about CY2027 transitions and plan-submitted rollover (POVER) transactions. ⁴
April 10, 2026	CMS releases the Plan Creation Module, Plan Benefit Package (PBP) module, and Bid Pricing Tool software in HPMS. Organizations interested in offering an MA or Part D product in CY2027 must submit a PBP that accurately describes the coverage details and cost-sharing for all covered benefits.
April 27, 2026	CY2025 Part C and D Reporting Requirements deadline for D-SNP Transmission of Admission Notification and Medicare Prescription Payment Plan.
May 2026	CMS releases CY2027 models for MA plan Annual Notice of Change (ANOC), Evidence of Coverage (EOC), Low Income Subsidy (LIS) rider, Part D Explanation of Benefits, formularies, transition notice, provider directory, and pharmacy directory.
May 8, 2026	MA organizations with D-SNP look-alike plans submit CY2027 transition plans to CMS.
May 22, 2026	CMS issues preliminary approvals/rejections for D-SNP lookalike transitions.
May 29, 2026	Model of Care (MOC) renewal submissions due for D-SNPs, I-SNPs and C-SNPs with MOC approvals ending December 31, 2026.
May 29, 2026	Submission period begins for plans to submit CY2027 marketing materials and communication materials, as applicable, to CMS for review via the HPMS Marketing Module.
May-July 2026	CMS releases the integrated Member ID card template for states that will have Applicable Integrated Plan (AIP) D-SNPs in CY2027, as well as model materials for certain states that choose to develop state-specific models with CMS for certain AIP materials. These models include the ANOC, EOC (Member Handbook), Summary of Benefits, Formulary (List of Covered Drugs), and Provider and Pharmacy Directory, but the models released vary by state.
Late May 2026	Qualification determinations provided to CY2027 applicants for new contracts or service area expansions.
June 2026	CMS begins triennial provider network adequacy reviews for active MA plans, including D-SNPs.
June 2026	MA organizations with D-SNP look-alike plans notify CMS of their transitions via HPMS.

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Date	Event
Early June - Late August 2026	Completion of CMS's CY2027 bid review and approval, to include pricing, PBPs, and formularies. Deadline for MAOs/Part D sponsors to submit attestations, contracts, initial actuarial certifications, and final actuarial certifications.
June 1, 2026	Deadline for all MA and Part D plans to submit in HPMS (1) CY2027 bids and formulary files and (2) contract non-renewals and service area reductions for CY2027.
June 2-3, 2026	Initial submission period for MA organizations to request crosswalk exceptions for CY2027.
June 3, 2026	CMS releases CY2027 D-SNP module for D-SNPs to upload required State Medicaid Agency Contracts (SMACs), attestations, and contract matrices in HPMS.
June 17-19, 2026	Second submission period for Plans/Part D sponsors to request CY2027 crosswalk exceptions in HPMS.
July 2026	CY2027 Model Notice Corrections memo release.
July 6, 2026	Deadline for submission of D-SNP SMACs to CMS.
Late July- Early August 2026	CMS releases the Part D national average monthly bid amount, the Medicare Part D base beneficiary premium, the Part D regional low-income premium subsidy amounts, the MA regional PPO benchmarks, and the de minimus amount.
August 1, 2026	If, on or before this date, CMS issues a termination notice to an MA organization with an effective date of December 31, 2026, the MA organization must issue notices to the affected plan enrollees at least 90 days prior to the effective date of the termination.
August-September 2026	Plan preview periods of Part C & D Star Ratings in HPMS. ⁵
Mid-August 2026	CMS sends approval letters to D-SNP look-alikes for transitions and POVER processes.
August 20, 2026	CMS releases CY2027 contract materials in HPMS for MA and Part D plans (including D-SNPs).
Late August 2026	CMS notifies all D-SNPs of final determinations of integration status and sanctions based on CY2027 SMACs.
August 31, 2026	CY2027 contract execution deadline.
August 31, 2026	CY2026 Part C and D reporting requirements data submission for enrollment/disenrollment.
August-September 2026	Plan preview periods of Part C & D Star Ratings in HPMS.
Mid-September, 2026	All CY2027 MA and PDP contracts fully executed (signed) by both Part C/Part D plan sponsors and CMS.

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Date	Event
September 30, 2026	Deadline for all MA organizations (including D-SNPs) to send the standardized ANOC to enrollees. Plans that have Part D cost sharing must also send the Low Income Subsidy (LIS) rider to enrollees by this date. Plans that do not have Part D cost-sharing, including during periods of deemed enrollment, do not have to send the LIS rider to enrollees.
October 1, 2026	CMS releases CY2027 plan and drug benefit information in the Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) on Medicare.gov.
October 1, 2026	MA and PDP plan marketing begins for CY2027. Organizations may market both CY2026 and CY2027 simultaneously but must clearly indicate which plan year is being discussed.
October 2, 2026	Deadline by which enrollees of non-renewing PDPs, MA plans, MA-PD plans, and cost-based plans must receive final, personalized beneficiary non-renewal notification letters.
Early-Mid October 2026	Plans submit MARx transactions for approved crosswalk exceptions (in accordance with the guidance provided in the End-of-Year Enrollment and Payment Systems Processing Information HPMS memo). ⁶
Early-Mid October 2026	MA organizations of D-SNP look-alikes submit any approved POVER transactions.
Early-Mid October 2026	MA and Part D plan Star Ratings released on Medicare.gov.
Mid-October 2026	CMS releases CY2028 NOIA for MA organizations wishing to apply for new contracts or service area expansions.
Mid-Late October 2026	POVER transactions must be complete (if required) according to the End-of-Year Enrollment and Payment Systems Processing Information Memo.
October 15, 2026	Deadline for all MA organizations (including D-SNPs) to send the following documents to current enrollees: EOC (Member Handbook); abridged or comprehensive formularies; and provider and pharmacy directories.
October 15, 2026	Deadline for MA organizations that need to make corrections to CY2027 ANOCs to submit ANOC errata to CMS in HPMS. MA organizations must send the corrected ANOCs to enrollees immediately following CMS approval.
October 15, 2026	Medicare Annual Election Period begins. Medicare beneficiaries can enroll in MA or Part D plans for CY2027.
November 11, 2026	CY2028 NOIA deadline to ensure access to HPMS for MA organizations applying for new contracts or service area expansions.
December 7, 2026	End of the Annual Election Period.

ABOUT THE INTEGRATED CARE RESOURCE CENTER

The **Integrated Care Resource Center** is a national initiative of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office to help states improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of care for dually eligible individuals. The state technical assistance activities provided by the Integrated Care Resource Center are coordinated by [Mathematica](#) and the [Center for Health Care Strategies](#). For more information, visit www.integratedcareresourcecenter.com.

ENDNOTES

¹ The dates in this calendar are for CY2026 Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plan activities. The exact dates of activities in future years are subject to change.

² CMS requires organizations planning to offer Medicare Part D or MA plans (including D-SNPs) to submit a Notice of Intent to Apply (NOIA) if they would like to offer a new plan or if they would like to expand the service area of an existing plan. To offer new plans or expand service areas for CY2027, organizations would have submitted NOIAs between November 11, 2025 and January 23, 2026.

³ This is required of all Medicare Advantage Organizations but is especially important for D-SNPs that wish to be designated as a Fully Integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (FIDE SNP) or a Highly Integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (HIDE SNP) in 2027. To qualify as a FIDE SNP, a single legal entity must hold both a Medicare Advantage D-SNP contract with CMS and a Medicaid managed care organization contract with the state Medicaid agency. To qualify as a HIDE SNP, a MAO must demonstrate that Medicaid benefits are covered by either: (1) the same legal entity as the D-SNP; or (2) the same parent company as the D-SNP. For information about additional requirements for FIDE SNPs and HIDE SNPs, see ICRC's tip sheet on D-SNP definitions at <https://integratedcareresourcecenter.com/resource/definitions-different-medicare-advantage-dual-eligible-special-needs-plan-d-snp-types-2023>.

⁴ Last year's version of this notice is available in the HPMS memo archive file for the week of April 7-11, 2025: <https://www.cms.gov/files/zip/2nd-week-april-7-11-2025zip.zip>.

⁵ States can use the Part C and D measures in the MA star ratings to assess the quality and performance of MA plans operating in their state. Note that the star ratings are assigned at the contract level, not at the individual plan level. A single MA contract may include more than one type of SNP as well as non-SNP MA plans. For more information, see the ICRC tip sheet "How States Can Use Medicare Advantage Star Ratings to Assess D-SNP Quality and Performance." Available at: <https://integratedcareresourcecenter.com/resource/how-states-can-use-medicare-advantage-star-ratings-assess-d-snp-quality-and-performance>.

⁶ The 2025 End-of-Year Enrollment and Payment Systems Processing Information HPMS memo (labeled "2025 End-of-Year-Memo") is available in the HPMS memo archive file for the week of August 25-29, 2025: <https://www.cms.gov/files/zip/5th-week-august-25-29-2025zip.zip>.