

CMS announces significant expansion of Medicare Advantage plan audits

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced they will audit all eligible Medicare Advantage plans for each payment year for all newly initiated audits. They also plan to expedite completion of audits for payment years 2018 through 2024 by early 2026, which includes dates of service from Jan. 1, 2017, to Dec. 31, 2023.

We expect these plans to affect our organization, and we want to keep you informed about what this means for us.

Key elements of the CMS plan

CMS will leverage technology to increase the number of audits conducted each year. As a result:

- All eligible Medicare Advantage plans will be audited annually. Currently, only 60 plans are audited per year.
- The number of medical records audited will increase from 35 records per health plan per year to between 35 and 200 records per health plan per year, depending on the size of the health plan.

Potential impact on your practice

As a result of the increased audit volume and frequency, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network may need to request medical records from you more frequently. This may lead to:

- **Increased contact from us:** You may receive more requests from Blue Cross and BCN to retrieve medical records for audit purposes.
- **Shorter turn-around time for medical record submission:** We may require a quicker turnaround time for you to submit requested medical records to ensure timely completion of the audit process.

Note: If you contract with a vendor for medical record retrieval, you may not notice a significant difference.

What you can do to prepare

To minimize any potential disruption, we recommend that you:

- Ensure that patient medical records are up-to-date, accurate and easily accessible.

- Review your current medical record retrieval process to ensure it can accommodate potential increases in request volume and shorter turnaround times.

We will continue to monitor the implementation of this plan and provide updates as necessary. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

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