



February 12, 2014

Ms. Marilyn Tavenner  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Mr. Denis McDonough  
White House Chief of Staff  
Executive Office of the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Ms. Sylvia Mathews Burwell  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

RE: Medicare Advantage and the 2015 CMS Advanced Notice

The undersigned organizations represent a broad and diverse set of stakeholders across the health care and wellness industries, including but not limited to, physicians, health care professionals, health plans, aging and disability groups, industry and trade associations and employers. On behalf of our members, we are writing to respectfully ask that you **protect the over 15 million seniors enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA) from possible rate cuts in the forthcoming Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) 2015 MA Advanced Notice and rate-setting process.**

Medicare Advantage provides seniors with a comprehensive set of integrated benefits that are coordinated across a continuum of health care services and localized to fit the circumstances of particular communities and individuals. The enhanced care coordination and benefits that MA plans offer provide seniors with high-quality, evidence-based care that improves their health and well-being while avoiding unnecessary or duplicative care and preventable re-admissions.

As a result of an average -6.7% 2014 MA rate cut, many enrolled in MA are experiencing higher out-of-pocket costs, scaled-back benefits, more restrictions on provider networks and fewer plan choices. Some of the changes seniors are facing may also impact access to critical services such as care management for chronic illness, and supplemental benefits like dental, vision and fitness coverage.

Please help ensure that MA rates are maintained at the current 2014 payment level in 2015 to avoid significant disruption to America's seniors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

National Association of Manufacturers  
CAPG: Voice of Accountable Physician Groups  
Case Management Association of America  
National Coalition on Healthcare  
Fresenius Medical Care North America  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors

Healthways  
Care Continuum Alliance  
National Retail Federation  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Healthcare Leadership Council