



Medicare Advantage: Star System's Disproportionate Impact on MA Plans Focusing on Low-Income Populations

Monday, September 22, 2014

Courtesy of HealthAffairs Blog (healthaffairs.org)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) evaluates Medicare Advantage (MA) health plan performance through a five Star Rating System. A close analysis by Health Affairs of the Star System finds compelling evidence that organizations focusing on low-income individuals encounter systematic challenges due to the characteristics of the populations they serve.

These challenges result in lower ratings in the Star System, even for MA plans that are effectively serving low-income beneficiaries, threatening the viability of these plans and endangering the health of the most vulnerable. Starting in 2012, pursuant to provisions in the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA), performance on the Star System also affects plan viability due to new payment incentives provided by the law for high performance.

For more information on these Star Ranking trends, as well as analysis of Medicare Advantage plans focusing on low-income populations, click on the URL below:

<http://healthaffairs.org/blog/2014/09/22/medicare-advantage-stars-systems-disproportionate-impact-on-ma-plans-focusing-on-low-income-populations/>