



# COA Fact Sheet: Medicare Advantage

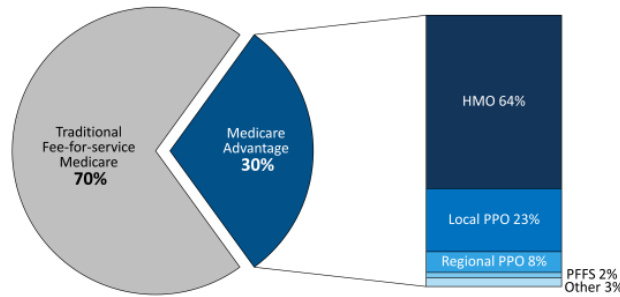
While the majority of Medicare beneficiaries receive their health coverage from original Medicare, more individuals are choosing to get their benefits from a Medicare Advantage plan, also known as a Medicare private health plan.

Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, sometimes called "Part C," are approved by Medicare and offered by private insurance companies. Medicare Advantage plans are required to offer coverage that is comparable to original Medicare Parts A and B. Many Medicare Advantage plans include prescription drug coverage, which through traditional Medicare is an optional add-on, called Part D. They are generally managed care plans. The most common types of Medicare Advantage plans are Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), Preferred Provider Organizations (PPO), and Private Fee-For-Service (PFFS) plans.

In 2014, the majority of the 54 million nationwide Medicare beneficiaries are in the traditional Medicare program, with 30% enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan. However, the number of Medicare beneficiaries who are enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans has tripled, from 5.3 million in 2004 to 15.7 million in 2014.

Exhibit 3

### Distribution of Enrollment in Medicare Advantage Plans, by Plan Type, 2014



Total Medicare Advantage Enrollment, 2014 = 15.7 Million

NOTE: PFFS is Private Fee-for-Service plans, PPOs are preferred provider organizations, and HMOs are Health Maintenance Organizations. Other includes MSAs, cost plans, and demonstration plans. Includes enrollees in Special Needs Plans as well as other Medicare Advantage plans.  
SOURCE: MPR / KFF analysis of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Advantage enrollment files, 2014.



According to a study done by the Kaiser Family Foundation, Kaiser, UnitedHealth and HealthNet were the top three market share holders of Medicare Advantage plans in California in 2013. Out of the 1.9 million Medicare Advantage enrollees in California, 1.8 million were enrolled in HMO plans.

Getting on a Medicare Advantage panel is a completely different process than applying to be a traditional Medicare provider. To apply to be a Medicare Advantage provider, you must request a contract from the private plan offering Medicare Advantage and specifically ask for its Medicare Advantage contract. You are not automatically a Medicare Advantage provider if you are already a provider for the private health plan that is offering Medicare Advantage.

The COA Health Care Delivery Systems Committee (HCDS) is gathering data on the contracting of ODs with Medicare Advantage plans. If you already are a Medicare Advantage provider or have been rejected from a Medicare Advantage panel, please contact [Kara Corches](#).

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