Medicare Enrollment and Coverage for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Clients

Access, Care, and Engagement (ACE) TA Center June 11, 2025



How to ask questions

Attendees are in listen-only mode.

To ask a question, **use the chat box** at the lower-right of your screen to chat with the presenter.

You may also **email questions** to <u>acetacenter@jsi.com</u> after the webinar.



The Access, Care, and Engagement Technical Assistance (ACE TA) Center builds the capacity of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) community to navigate the changing health care landscape and help people with HIV to access and use their health coverage to improve health outcomes. Many RWHAP clients are eligible for health coverage options, including Medicare, Medicaid, and Marketplace plans. The ACE TA Center provides practical tools and resources to support engagement, education, enrollment, and renewal activities.



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Medicaid Unwinding Has Begun, Act Now to Keep RWHAP Clients Enrolled

State Medicaid programs have begun conducting Medicaid eligibility reviews for all enrollees as of April 2023. The review process will continue for the next 12 months until all enrollees' eligibility has been reviewed. People who are no longer eligible for Medicaid will need to explore alternative health care coverage options.

Read our **blog post** and view our **on demand webinar materials** to find out how RWHAP programs can help Medicaid clients stay covered and avoid gaps in care. See also HIV.gov's Important: Learn More About the Medicaid Unwinding Period Technical Assistance Directory » ACE TA Center

TA Center

Care, and Engagement TA Center (ACE) Technical Assistance (TA) Center pacity of the RWHAP community to navigate the changing health care and help people with HIV to access and use their health coverage to improve mes.

Training Services

P clients are eligible for new health coverage options, including Medicaid lace plans. The ACE TA Center provides practical tools and resources to agement, education, enrollment, and renewal activities. Our technical nd training is responsive to recipient and subrecipient needs and informed competent best practices. The ACE TA Center is a cooperative agreement Research & Training Institute, Inc., (JSI) & and the Health Resources and inistration, (HIV/AIDS Bureau) #.





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Engage, enroll, and retain

clients in health coverage (e.g., Marketplace and other private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid).



Communicate with Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) clients

about how to stay enrolled and use health coverage to improve health care access.



Improve the clarity

of their communication around health care access and health insurance.



- RWHAP program staff, including case managers
- RWHAP organizations (leaders and managers)
- RWHAP clients
- Navigators, State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP) counselors and other in-person assisters that help enroll RWHAP clients in health coverage

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Read our <u>blog post</u> and view our <u>on demand webinar materials</u> to find out how RWHAP programs can help Medicaid clients stay covered and avoid gaps in care.



HELP

COMMUNITY

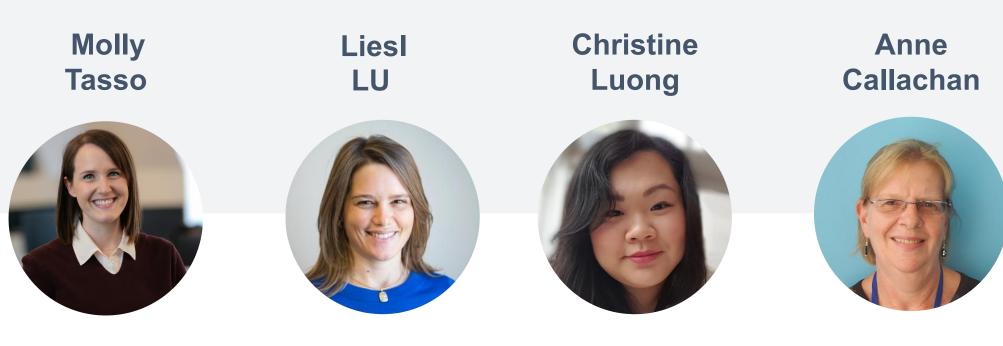
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Roadmap for today's webinar





Today's presenters



Project Director, ACE TA Center

Principal Investigator, ACE TA Center

Research and Policy Associate, ACE TA Center BRIDGE Team Project Manager, Community Resource Initiative





How would you describe your organization's readiness to assist clients with Medicare enrollment? (Select one.)

- We are experts and we stay up-to-date on enrollment best practices.
- We have some experience and we partner with external enrollment specialists.
- We have some experience and we are building our in-house capacity.
- We have a little experience and are exploring ways to improve.
- Other (chat in your response)

Recap: Medicare Basics



Recap: Part I

- In Part I, we covered:
 - The changing demographics of RWHAP clients
 - Medicare eligibility for people with HIV
 - The different parts of Medicare
 - Comparing Medicare coverage options (Original Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage)
 - Medicare enrollment pathways
- View the recording at targethiv.org/ace/webinars



Primary criteria for Medicare eligibility

- To enroll in Medicare, an individual must be a U.S. citizen or a legal resident for at least five years (with some exceptions).
- Three potential pathways:
 - Age 65 or older
 - Under 65 with a qualifying disability
 - Have end stage renal disease (ESRD) or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease)



Comparing coverage and costs

- Shop and compare **Original Medicare and** Medicare Advantage Plans at www.medicare.gov
- The RWHAP, including the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), may help pay for Medicare and/or Medigap premiums, deductibles, and copayments.

Original Medicare (Parts A and B)

Includes:

HO

Medicare Advantage (also called Part C)



Includes:

- Part A (hospital insurance)
- Part B (medical insurance)

Most plans include:

 Part D (prescription drug) coverage)

Some plans also include:

- Lower out-of-pocket costs
- Extra benefits

Plans adminstered by:

 Private insurance companies that contract with the government

Part A (hospital insurance)

Part B (medical insurance)

Part D (prescription drug

Supplemental coverage

Supplement Insurance

(Medigap) policy

Plans adminstered by:

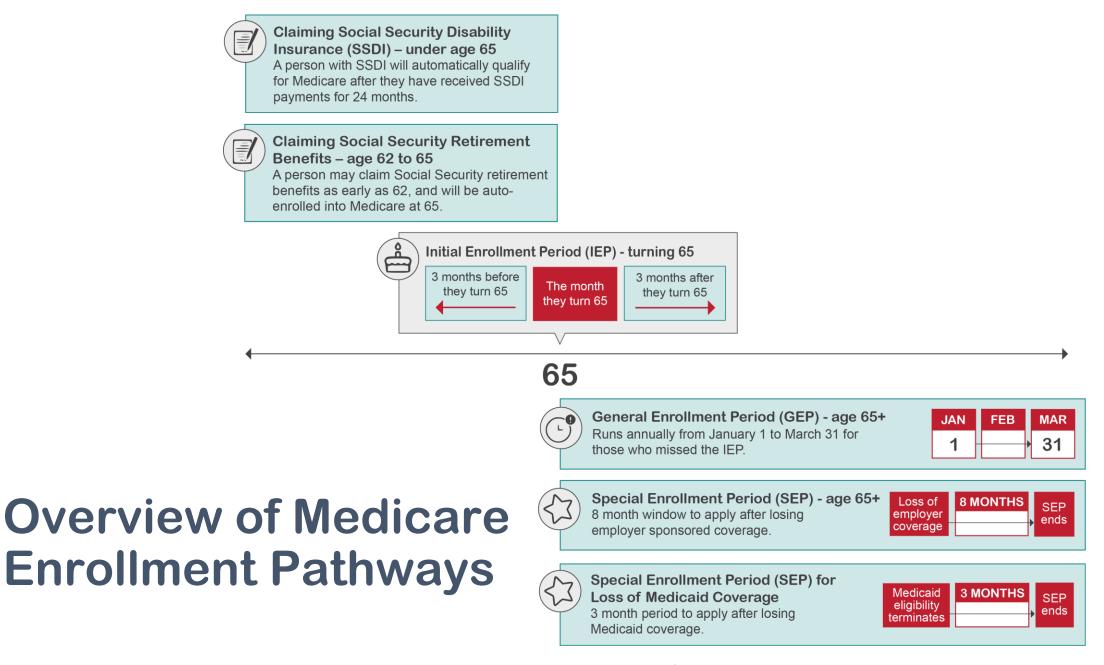
The federal government

to help pay out-of-pocket

costs—such as a Medicare

Clients can purchase:

coverage)



*Various Medicare SEPs are available for individuals experiencing certain life events, such as moving or losing other coverage. The length of each SEP varies.

Best practices and enrollment support



Best practices to support Medicare enrollment

- Ensure continuity of coverage
- ✓ Actively enroll
- Enroll when first eligible
- Provide one-on-one enrollment support
- Be able to identify misleading marketing practices



BEST PRACTICE #1: Ensure continuity of coverage

- Confirm with clients that their current providers accept Medicare: <u>medicare.gov/care-compare</u>
- Help clients compare Medicare drug plans in their area and choose one that covers their HIV medications and other non-HIV medications: <u>medicare.gov/plan-compare/</u>
- **Reminder**: The RWHAP, including ADAP, may help pay for Medicare premiums, deductibles, and copayments.



BEST PRACTICE #2: Actively enroll

- For clients who choose:
 - Original Medicare (Parts A and B), enroll through Social Security
 - Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D (Rx Drug Plan), or Medigap, enroll through Medicare.gov
- Only a small subset of people are automatically enrolled in Medicare:
 - People already receiving Social Security retirement benefits
 - People receiving 24+ months of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits
 - People with ESRD or ALS



BEST PRACTICE #3: Enroll when first eligible

- Help clients enroll as soon as they are eligible (usually during the Initial Enrollment Period at age 65) to avoid late enrollment penalties and minimize gaps in coverage.
- Create EHR reminders or ask medical case managers to flag clients who:
 - Are approaching their 65th birthday
 - Will be receiving their 25th month of SSDI benefits



Changing Medicare plans after enrollment

Medicare Open Enrollment Period

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period



October 15 - December 7 annually

Anyone with Medicare coverage, whether Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage, can make a change to their medical and prescription coverage for the following year.

New coverage begins January 1 the following year.

January 1 – March 31 annually

Individuals with Medicare Advantage can switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan or return to Original Medicare.

Any changes will be effective the first of the month after the plan gets the request.



BEST PRACTICE #4: Provide oneon-one enrollment support

- Establish external referral relationships
- State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP) provide local and objective insurance counseling and assistance to Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, and caregivers.
 - Review health or drug plan options
 - Explore financial assistance options
 - Explain how Medicare works with other types of health coverage
 - Help with complex issues such as dual eligibility for Medicaid and Medicare.
- Find your local SHIP: <u>shiphelp.org/about-</u> medicare/regional-ship-location

BEST PRACTICE #4: Provide oneon-one enrollment support

- Increase internal staff capacity by training HIV clinic staff (including RWHAP and ADAP) as SHIP counselors.
 - HIV clinic staff are ideal SHIP counselors because they understand the eligibility requirements for both programs, the coverage needs of people with HIV, and state-specific programs.
- Training programs and certification requirements may vary by state.
 - Individual SHIP counselors must be associated with a SHIP-certified organization.
 - Contact your state health department for more information.





Is your organization connected with your state's SHIP program? (Select one.)

- Yes, we have SHIP counselors on staff
- Yes, we refer our clients to a SHIP counselor
- No, we are not connected but are working on it
- No, we are not aware of SHIP in our area
- Other (chat in your response)

BEST PRACTICE #5: Be able to identify misleading marketing practices

- Medicare fraud and scams have increased in recent years. Look out for:
 - Providers billing Medicare for services or supplies they never provided
 - Providers charging Medicare twice for services or items that were provided once
 - Unauthorized use of a person's Medicare
 number to submit false claims
- Help spot and prevent fraud by:
 - Reviewing Medicare statements and comparing dates and services
 - Understanding marketing rules
- Report suspected fraudulent activity by calling 1-800-MEDICARE



BEST PRACTICE #5: Be able to identify misleading marketing practices

- Common misleading marketing practices:
 - **Deceptive language** that makes the ad seem to be sponsored by a government agency
 - Promises of extra benefits (like vision, dental, hearing, and help paying for other Medicare costs) that may not be true
 - Attempts to convince beneficiaries to **switch to a Medicare Advantage plan** that may not suit their needs or work with their existing providers
 - Encouraging beneficiaries to call a phone number to learn more about a plan or program
- Common misleading marketing materials:
 - **TV advertisements** by private insurance carriers and insurance brokers
 - Unsolicited promotional marketing **mailings**
 - Unsolicited **phone** calls, often from the beneficiary's current Medicare Part D carrier or an insurance broker on the plan's behalf to make the outreach seem more legitimate

BEST PRACTICE #5: Be able to identify misleading marketing practices

- Reminders for clients:
 - Consult with their RWHAP case
 managers or a Medicare SHIP counselor
 to review Medicare plan options
 - Never enroll in a Medicare plan based on an unsolicited phone call, TV advertisement, or marketing mailing
 - Never give their Medicare number or personal information to someone they don't know
 - Medicare and the Social Security Administration do not call people with sales pitches
 - Medicare Advantage plans have specific provider networks and may not be the right choice for everyone!



Enrollment challenges



ENROLLMENT CHALLENGE #1: Avoiding late enrollment penalties

Medicare Part A Penalty

- For people who don't qualify for premiumfree Part A, pay an additional 10% on their monthly premium for twice the number of years they were eligible.
- Can be avoided if they have employersponsored coverage.

Medicare Part B Penalty

- Pay an additional 10% for each year they were eligible (a lifetime penalty!)
- Can be avoided if they have employersponsored coverage or qualify for a Medicare Savings Program.
- If incurred prior to age 65, can be reset to \$0 during IEP at age 65.



ENROLLMENT CHALLENGE #1: Avoiding late enrollment penalties

Medicare Part D Penalty

- Pay an additional 1% of a national benchmark amount for each full, uncovered month a person did not have Part D or other creditable coverage.
- This is also a lifetime penalty!
- Generally significantly smaller than Part A or B penalties and much easier to resolve
- Can be avoided by having creditable prescription drug coverage or qualifying for the Extra Help program



ENROLLMENT CHALLENGE #1: Avoiding late enrollment penalties

- Make sure RWHAP clients enroll in Medicare Part A, B, and/or D when they are first eligible, unless they have a legitimate reason to defer, such as:
 - Client is still working and has employersponsored insurance.
 - Client is eligible for a Medicare Savings
 Program.
 - Client has other creditable prescription drug coverage.
 - Client qualifies for the federal Extra Help program.



ENROLLMENT CHALLENGE #2: Deferring enrollment if keeping employer coverage

- If a client plans to keep employersponsored coverage, make sure they talk to their employer's human resources department first before deferring Medicare enrollment.
- Individuals on employer-sponsored insurance (through their own or a spouse's employer) can generally enroll into Part A and keep their employersponsored plan.
- A retiree plan or COBRA coverage is **NOT** considered qualifying coverage, and does not exempt an individual from the Part B late enrollment penalty.



Which of the following is a legitimate reason to defer enrollment in Medicare Part B? (Select one.)

- a) Having COBRA coverage
- b) Having employer-sponsored coverage
- c) Having retiree insurance
- d) All of the above
- e) None of the above

Which of the following is a legitimate reason to defer enrollment in Medicare Part B? (Select one.)

- a) Having COBRA coverage
- b) Having employer-sponsored coverage
- c) Having retiree insurance
- d) All of the above
- e) None of the above

Answer: (B)

What steps should RWHAP clients take if they are considering deferring Medicare enrollment and keeping their employer-sponsored insurance? (Select one.)

- a) Contact their employer's human resources department to identify any potential conflicts
- b) Contact the Social Security Administration to confirm whether deferring Medicare Part B coverage will incur a penalty
- c) Time their Medicare Part B deferment during the Initial Enrollment Period
- d) All of the above
- e) None of the above

What steps should RWHAP clients take if they are considering deferring Medicare enrollment and keeping their employer-sponsored insurance? (Select one.)

- a) Contact their employer's human resources department to identify any potential conflicts
- b) Contact the Social Security Administration to confirm whether deferring Medicare Part B coverage will incur a penalty
- c) Time their Medicare Part B deferment during the Initial Enrollment Period
- d) All of the above
- e) None of the above

Answer: (D)

ENROLLMENT CHALLENGE #3: Transitioning from Marketplace to Medicare

- Enroll in Medicare when first eligible during Initial Enrollment Period (IEP)
 - If a client missed the IEP, enroll through the next GEP, a Special Enrollment Period or equitable relief
- Marketplace Termination:
 - Marketplace coverage usually does NOT terminate automatically.
 - Clients will lose Advance Premium Tax Credits
 (APTCs) if they are:
 - Eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A and still enrolled in Marketplace coverage
 - Enrolled in Medicare Part A with a premium
 - Clients can keep APTCs if they are eligible for but not enrolled in Medicare Part A with a premium.

ENROLLMENT CHALLENGE #3: Transitioning from Marketplace to Medicare

- Encourage clients to do the following:
 - Check mail frequently for notices from the Marketplace or Medicare.
 - Be aware of the start dates for their Medicare Part A, B, and D coverage before terminating Marketplace coverage, in order to avoid any coverage gaps.
 - Contact the Social Security office if they encounter any enrollment issues.



ENROLLMENT CHALLENGE #4: Transitioning from Medicaid to Medicare

- Tips to avoid gaps in coverage:
 - 1. Make sure patients update their contact information with their state Medicaid agency.
 - 2. Encourage patients to check their mail frequently for letters from their state Medicaid agency.
 - 3. Help patients complete their Medicaid renewal form, if they receive one.
 - 4. If an individual is found ineligible for Medicaid, help them enroll into another form of health coverage (e.g. Medicare, Marketplace plan).



ENROLLMENT CHALLENGE #4: Transitioning from Medicaid to Medicare

- Medicare Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for termination of Medicaid coverage is available
 - 6 month SEP that begins when Medicaid eligibility ends or when client is notified of coverage termination, whichever is later
- Clients can choose between:
 - Retroactive coverage back to the date of termination (no earlier than 1/1/23), client must pay the premiums for the retroactive covered time period.
 - Coverage beginning on the 1st of the month after enrolling



Financial help



How the RWHAP can help

• RWHAP funds may be used to pay for Medicare premiums and cost sharing associated with Medicare Parts B, C, and D coverage:



Outpatient/ambulatory health services
 (Medicare Part B)



- Prescription drug coverage (Medicare Part D) that includes at least one drug in each class of core antiretroviral therapeutics
- Note: RWHAP funds cannot be used to pay for Medicare Part A premiums, per <u>HRSA HAB PCN #18-01</u>



Tips for helping clients use **RWHAP** with **Medicare** coverage

- Remind clients that ADAP is always the payor of last resort.
 - For clients with Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D deductibles, clients should direct pharmacies to bill their Medicare, not ADAP, in order to meet their deductible requirements.

• Premium amounts can change throughout the year.

 To avoid coverage termination or accruing past due amounts, keep an eye out for notices in the mail about changes to their premiums so that RWHAP can help clients pay their premiums in full and on time.



Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) for dually eligible clients

- Federally-funded, state-administered programs for low-income beneficiaries that help pay for some or all of the enrollee's Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket expenses.
- Some dually eligible people will qualify.
- 4 types of MSPs (varies by state):
 - Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)
 - Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)
 - Qualifying Individual (QI)
 - Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals (QDWI)



Extra Help Program: Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS)

- A federal program that helps individuals pay for some or most of the out-ofpocket costs associated with Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.
- Reminder! As of January 2024, Extra Help is expanded to provide the full subsidy to all eligible individuals with incomes under 150% FPL
- Individuals enrolled in an MSP often qualify for Extra Help automatically.
- Enrolling in the Extra Help program will eliminate any Medicare Part D late enrollment penalties that an individual may have incurred.



Other sources of financial help

- State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs (SPAPs) can help eligible people pay for their prescription drugs based on financial need, age, or medical condition.
- Some major drug manufacturers offer Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs), which provide free or low-cost medications for people with Medicare drug coverage who meet certain requirements.
- Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) are state-administered programs for dually eligible individuals who require a nursing home-level of care.



Other sources of financial help

- Low-Income Newly Eligible Transition (LINET) program provides temporary, sometimes retroactive, Part D coverage for those who were on Medicaid and are waiting for Part D to start.
- Other state and local resources, such as financial assistance programs through clinics, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers.
- Optional Medicare Prescription Payment Program (MPPP) helps spread out Medicare Part D costs over the plan year



Resource round-up



ACE TA Center Medicare resources

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ACE TA CENTER The Basics of Medicare for RWHAP Clients	ACE TA CENTER Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage for RNMAP Clients	Part B premium UC: continues forever. ACE TA CENTER How Medicare Enrolment Works

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Tool: **One-on-One** Medicare Enrollment Assistance

targethiv.org/ace/medicare

One-on-One Medicare Enrollment Assistance for Ryan White HIV/AIDS **Program Clients** This resource provides Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) staff and program administrators with an overview

Enrolling in Medicare — including understanding the different parts of Medicare, the distinction between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans, and the various enrollment timelines — can be

Providing one-on-one enrollment assistance is an important way to Provising one-on-one encomment assistance is an important way to ensure that your Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) clients enroll ensure that your regard white minutes program (reverver) clients entru in the best Medicare coverage option to meet their health care needs.

In the best medicare coverage uption to meet men means care needs. One-on-one enrollment assistance also supports coverage affordability Une-on-one enroument assistance also supports coverage altoroat and promotes coordination with other RWHAP program resources.

Medicare Counseling from your local State Health Insurance Assistance

Program (SHIP)

To support Medicare enrollment, RWHAP programs can work with their to support medicare enroliment, KWTIAP programs can work with the local State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIPs are local State Hearn insurance Assistance Program (Smir). Smir's are state-based programs that receive funding from the federal government state-based programs that receive turining from the reberal governme to provide free, local, and unbiased health coverage counseling and to provide tree, tocal, and unbiased nearth coverage counseiing and information to people who are enrolled in Medicare or who are about to information to people who are entrolled in Medicare or who are about to become eligible for Medicare. There are SHIP programs in all 50 states. become engine for medicare. There are Smir programs in an ou states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

 People who are aging into Medicare at age 65 (or who are leaving work-sponsored insurance after age 65) navigate the enrollment work-sponsored insurance after age ob) navigate the enrolin process, including what Medicare does and does not cover. People who are under the age of 65 and newly Medicare eligible

- recipie with are unuer the age or to and newly medicate end because of a disability but not yet enrolled in all the parts of but dense the second of the seco People who are already enrolled in Medicare and want to change
- or better understand their options and coverage. Family members or caregivers that need help supporting
- a Medicare beneficiary.

how RWHAP program staff can become trained SHIP counselors. Find the answers to these questions: 1. How can the SHIP program help clients who are eligible for Medicare? 2. How can RWHAP program staff become trained SHIP counselors?

of the State Health Insurance

Assistance Program (SHIP), how SHIP can support

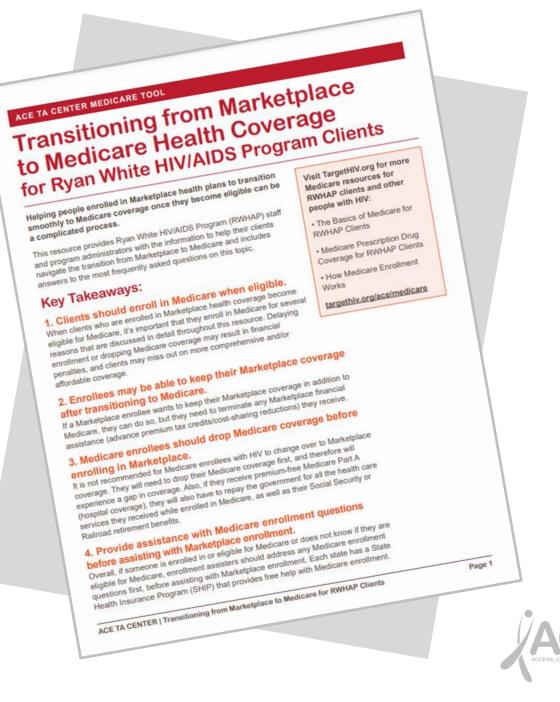
Medicare-eligible clients, and

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ACE TA CENTER | One-on-One Medicare Enrollment Assistance for RWHAP Clients

Tool: Transitioning from Marketplace to Medicare

targethiv.org/ace/medicare



Tool: Financial Help for Medicare

targethiv.org/ace/medicare

Financial Help for Medicare Medicare Savings Programs and the Extra Help Program for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Clients This resource provides Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) staff What is a Medicare Savings Program? and program administrators with an overview of Medicare Savings Programs and Extra Help eligibility Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs), also known as Medicare and coverage for RWHAP clients. Buy-In programs or Medicare Premium Payment programs, are federally buy-m programs or meucare memorin rayment programs, are new funded programs administered by each individual state for income eligible Medicare beneficiaries. These programs help pay for some or all Find the answers to these of an enrollee's Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket expenses. MSPs questions: What are the different Medicare Savings Programs? help people with limited income and assets.¹² Clients who are approved for an MSP (with one exception, described below), are then automatically eligible for Extra Help, a federal program 2. What is the Extra Help below), are usen automatically engine to extra neith, a reueral program that helps pay for some or most of the out-of-pocket costs associated 3. How can you support RWHAP with Medicare prescription drug coverage (Medicare Part D).¹² clients to enroll in Medicare Medicare Savings Programs are paid for by state Medicaid programs. Savings Programs? 4. What are other sources of financial help for Medicare What Types of Medicare Costs Are Covered? premiums and out-of-pocket Medicare Savings Programs may be able to pay the monthly premium for Original Medicare (Medicare Parts A and B) and other out-of-pocket expenses? tor Ungine intervare (intervare rene A and b) and verer our or prove costs (such as deductibles, co-insurance, and copayments), depending Learn more about the Most enrollees may already quality for premium-free Medicare Part A Medicare Savings overage if they or their spouse paid Medicare taxes while working for on the specific program.13 Q Program: www.medicare.gov/ a certain amount of time (roughly 10 years of full-time work). your-medicare-costs/ get-help-paying-costs/ medicare-savingsprograms Page 1 ACE TA CENTER | Financial Help for Medicare for RWHAP Clients

FAQ: Medicare Prescription **Payment Plan** (MPPP)

targethiv.org/ace/medicare

FAQ: Medicare Prescription ACE TA Center Medicare Resource Last updated October, 2024 Payment Plan The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was passed in 2022, and included significant changes Ine Initiation Reduction Act (IRA) was passed in 2022, and included significant changes to Medicare benefit design and prescription drug access. The following FAQ explains two investors provisions of the IDA with coinclude effect on Leavany 4 apps; the paul Medicare to Medicare benefit design and prescription drug access. The following FAQ explains two important provisions of the IRA, both going into effect on January 1, 2025: the new Medicare prescription Payment Dian (MDDD) and the Medicare part D co one out of poster (COD) Important provisions of the IRA, both going into effect on January 1, 2025: the new Medicare Prescription Payment Plan (MPPP) and the Medicare Part D \$2,000 out-of-pocket (OOP) cap. This EAO document is intended to support Duce Minis UN/ADD Decreme (DMUAD) and Prescription Payment Plan (MPPP) and the Medicare Part U \$2,000 out-of-pocket (OOP) C This FAQ document is intended to support Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) and AIDS Data Assistance Program (ADAD) administrators care management at the start AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) administrators, case managers, and other staff as the tweet with DNALAD allocate with Medicare Det D eccentration data exceeded to decide it AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) administrators, case managers, and outer stan as they work with RWHAP clients with Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage to decide if Iney work with RevHAP citents with Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage to decide it enrolling in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is a good option for them. You can find additional recourses on Medicare at Terrentum representations additional resources on Medicare at <u>TargelHIV.org/ace/medicare</u>.

1. What is the Medicare Prescription

The MPPP is an optional program for Medicare Payment Plan? beneficiaries to help pay Medicare Part D OOP costs in monthly amounts over the course of a plan year. This process of spreading out OOP prescription drug costs is often referred to as "smoothing." The program is designed to help beneficiaries with the cost-sharing for expensive drugs. All Medicare prescription drug plans – including both standalone Medicare Part D plans and Medicare Advantage plans with prescription drug coverage – are required to offer beneficiaries the option to enroll into the program. If an enrollee chooses to "smooth" their OOP prescription drug costs, they will pay monthly amounts directly to the Medicare Part D or Advantage plan, instead of paying the entire OOP amount at the pharmacy. In addition to their monthly Medicare Part D premium bill, enrollees who opt into the MPPP will receive a separate bill for their "smoothed" prescription drug costs. ACE TA Center | FAQ: Medicare Prescription Payment Plan

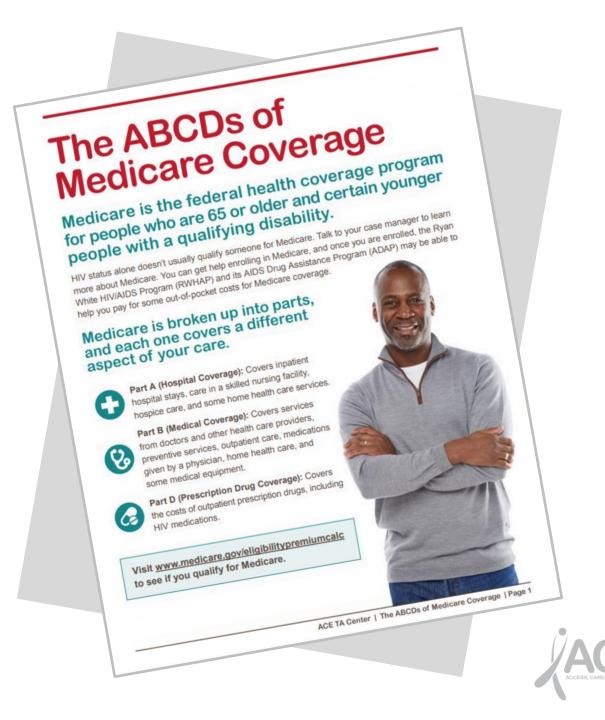
This program does not lower the total annual cost-sharing a person will pay for their prescription drugs; instead, it allows cost-sharing to be smoothed over the plan year. The program is available to anyone with Medicare prescription drug coverage, but is expected to be most helpful for enrollees who incur high cost-sharing earlier in the plan year. The benefits of the MPPP for RWHAP clients are likely limited, and clients should discuss the program with their case manager or other RWHAP staff before deciding to enroll (see questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 for more information). The MPPP will begin with the 2025 Medicare Part D plan year, starting January 1, 2025. Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans are expected to begin notifying beneficiaries who may benefit from the program – specifically, those who paid at least \$2,000 in Part D cost sharing in 2024 and those who are expected to incur OOP costs of \$600 or more for a single medication in 2025 - during the next Medicare open enrollment period (October 15 – December 7).



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Client Resource: The ABCDs of Medicare Coverage

targethiv.org/ace/medicare



Poll #3

How do you typically share tools, resources, and information with RWHAP clients? (Select all that apply.)

- During in-person appointments
- During virtual appointments
- Via email
- Via text
- Other (chat in your response)



What types of resources would be most useful to share with your clients? (Select all that apply.)

- Printable PDF fact sheet
- Palm card, brochure, or half sheet print-out
- Online searchable webpage or FAQ
- Other (chat in your response)

Q&A Panelists



Anne Callachan



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Thank you.



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Contact us at acetacenter@jsi.com