

APPENDIX C (5)

Medicare Platino Norms

Medicare Platino General Information 2024-(Appendix C-5)

I, Thurman Rae Justice, hereby certify that Triple S Advantage Inc, will be adopting the following standards and requirements for the 2024 Medicare Platino contract:

I - CARE COORDINATION

A. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. MAOs shall provide ASES with the strategy implemented for identification of populations with special health care needs, to identify any ongoing special conditions of Enrollees that require a treatment plan and regular care monitoring by appropriate Providers. The conditions ASES classifies as special coverage and that do not require referral are:

- a) HIV/AIDS
- b) Tuberculosis
- c) Leprosy
- d) Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)
- e) Cystic Fibrosis
- f) Cancer
- g) Hemophilia
- h) ESRD=> Levels 3, 4 and 5
- i) Multiple Sclerosis
- j) Scleroderma
- k) Pulmonary Hypertension
- l) Aplastic Anemia
- m) Rheumatoid Arthritis
- n) Autism
- o) Skin cancer
- p) Skin cancer: carcinoma IN SITU
- q) Skin cancer: Invasive Melanoma or squamous cells with evidence of metastasis.
- r) Phenylketonuria, adults with
- s) Chronic Hepatitis C
- t) CHF Class III and IV NHHA in a potential candidate for heart transplant
- u) Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD)
- v) Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD): Crohn's disease; Ulcerative Colitis and Microscopic Colitis



2. Treatment, as well as related services, for the above-mentioned special conditions do not need a referral from the Primary Care Physician (PCP) once the diagnosis has been established.

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3. The Contractor may use the Default Enrollment (previously known seamless conversion) Option for Newly Medicare Eligible Individuals, as detailed in §40.1.4, Chapter 2 of the Medicare Managed Care Manual. This option shall be available for individuals newly eligible for Medicare.

B. REFERRALS

1. When a patient is referred to a specialist by a PCP and the specialist prescribes a medication, no countersignature of the prescription will be required from the PCP, as established by CMS.
2. For cases where the MAOs has contracted with Primary Medical Groups (PMGs), who have directly contracted preferred provider specialists, a referral from the PCP is not necessary when both are part of the same PMG. However, the specialists will be required to inform the PCP about the medical services referred.
3. Patients will be able to see specialists such as a Gynecologist/Obstetrician and Urologist without a referral from their PCP. Referrals for laboratory, diagnostic tests and others shall be governed by that established in paragraph number two (2) of this referral section.
4. No referral is required for services related to pathological laboratories.
5. MAO's should inform and train all providers about the referral procedures and ensure that they understand the process to guarantee health care coordination between primary care provider and specialists.

C. PHARMACY

1. Bioequivalent drugs are mandatory.
2. Erectile Dysfunction (ED) drugs cannot be included in the Medicare Platino coverage. This prohibition is extensive to marketing materials, and other activities for Medicare Platino Population.



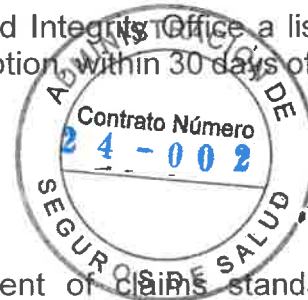
II - PAY FOR PERFORMANCE AND OTHER INCENTIVES

ASES approves the use of incentive payments that complies with the following elements:

1. Credible use of medical standards that support quality improvement and reduce adverse effects on patient care.
2. Incentive payments to physicians and other providers must be related to quality initiatives supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).



3. Incentive payment arrangements cannot be used to reduce or limit the services that a patient needs or may need. For example, reduction of diagnostic tests, hospitalizations, treatments, and others).
4. Continuous supervision by a third party that is independent from hospitals, medical groups, and insurers, to evaluate that the services provided to patients are not affected.
5. Maintain transparency by clearly defining quality objectives. MAOs must notify patients of the implementation of the incentive programs and the physicians are accountable for proper care.
6. These incentives must not be used to penalize physicians that have patients with major health conditions that do not meet clinical guidelines.
7. MAOs must submit to the ASES Compliance and Integrity Office a list of the incentives established by the MAOs with their description within 30 days of signing the contract with ASES.



III - PAYMENT TO PROVIDERS AND OTHERS

Each MAO must comply with the prompt payment of claims standards as established by federal regulation 42 CFR 447.45; 42 CFR 422.500 and the Platino Contract. Non-compliance with the rules could result in administrative penalties.

IV - REPORTING OBLIGATION

1. The MAOs shall submit all reports required by Contract and normative letters in the format required by ASES.
2. The MAOs must require Providers to comply with all reporting requirements contained in their Contract, as applicable, and particularly with the requirements to submit Encounter Data for all services provided, and to report all instances of suspected Fraud, Waste, or Abuse.
3. ASES will consider extensions for reporting, in rare and unusual circumstances. If ASES grants an extension, and the report is submitted before the extended deadline, the report(s) will be considered timely and not subject to penalty for timeliness. The extension will not exceed more than 10 calendar days.
4. If a report due date falls on a weekend or a Commonwealth holiday, receipt of the report the next Business Day is acceptable.

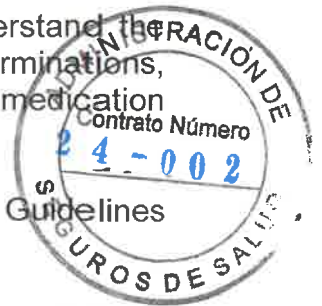
V - REQUIRED PROVISIONS IN PROVIDER CONTRACT



1. The Medicare Platino Program, administered by ASES, is a Medicaid product. Every MAO contracted by ASES for the Vital Plan must ensure that their providers offer services in both Platino and Vital Plan. If a MAO is not contracted by ASES for the Vital Plan, it shall be the MAO's responsibility to ensure that health care services are provided as needed by the beneficiary and as contracted with ASES.

VI - OTHER PROVISIONS

1. People aged 60 and over will be able to choose a Geriatrician as their PCP.
2. Every MAO must establish procedures that guarantee that PCPs will be informed of all services provided to their patients. For this reason, communication standards among Providers should include a requirement for specialists to send the beneficiary's PCP a report on the patient's health condition.
3. Every MAO contracted by ASES to offer services for the Platino population must comply with the requirements established in 42 CFR 455. The integrity guides will be included in the contract with the MAOs. ASES will perform tests and/or audits to ensure compliance.
4. MAO's must require from Providers that no monies may be charged to Platino beneficiaries for the provision of certifications required for the Puerto Rico Medicaid Program.
5. Every MAO shall ensure that all providers and beneficiaries understand the process regarding how beneficiaries can ask for coverage determinations, exceptions to rules, and perform an appeal if the MAO does not cover a medication or service or if beneficiaries cannot afford a medication or service.
6. Every MAO shall ensure that marketing activities are following the Guidelines for Marketing Activities established by ASES.
7. ASES will not approve any changes outside the dates established by CMS, for which reason it is recommended that MAOs' products and co-pays be submitted correctly within the dates established by CMS in the Call Letter 2024. Should there be any change because of an administrative decision by ASES or the publication of a normative letter, ASES will be responsible to coordinate with CMS and request approvals to let the MAO's implement the change. This rule also applies to Value-Added Items and Services (VAIS) which must be in place for the entire contract year (refer to 80.1). In addition, ASES will not allow any changes to the certifications submitted as part of the contract unless required by ASES and/or CMS as part of bid adjustments. ASES will not accept changes to the certifications after the contract signature with CMS.
8. Utilization Guides to be used for clinical audits must be submitted to ASES and prepared from nationally recognized entities. The MAO's must submit, as part of the required information, licenses for use and a training certification for the



personnel that will be using them. These guides must be submitted to the Executive Division within 30 days after contract signature.

9. The MAO will be compliance with the CMS marketing guidelines for evaluating -marketing materials and the ASES Normative Letter 17-08-11”, stating for evaluating marketing materials.

10. The MAO’s are responsible for ensuring that not only its marketing activities, but also the marketing activities of its Subcontractors and Providers, meet the above requirements.

11. ASES will establish sanctions or civil monetary penalties against any MAO that does not comply with these norms. The sanctions or monetary penalties for noncompliance will be forty thousand (\$40,000.00) dollars for each event of non-compliance. If the MAOs incur in the same non-compliance of the norms that resulted in a previous imposition of sanctions, ASES has the discretion of imposing to the MAO a sanction or monetary penalty of eighty thousand (\$80,000.00) dollars for each reoccurring event of non-compliance. ASES may impose additional intermediate sanctions or civil monetary penalties in the contract to be executed between ASES and the MAOs for the latter's non-compliance with any of the terms and conditions of the contract.

Normative Letter

If necessary, ASES will issue Normative Letters to clarify any doubts with the procedure to be followed by this letter, including terms and interest payments.

The Parties may not change the conditions imposed by ASES in the 2024 Platinum Standards, any doubts in the implementation thereof shall be the full responsibility of ASES to interpret them.

Medicare Advantage companies are responsible of publishing this Normative Letter to beneficiaries and providers.




Mr. Thurman Rae Justice
President Triple-S Salud and President Triple-S Advantage

6/7/2023
Date

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