

For Immediate Release

DATE: March 7, 2024

CONTACT: Fernanda Durand at fdurand@nhmamd.org

New National Provider Survey Finds Physicians Are Overwhelmingly Concerned With Proposed Medicare Advantage Payment Rates As Seniors Seek Out More Care

Sixty-nine percent of Medicare-eligible Hispanics choose Medicare Advantage; payment and program stability are essential to ensuring Hispanic seniors continue to have access to affordable and quality care

WASHINGTON—The [National Hispanic Medical Association](#) (NHMA), the nation's largest membership organization of Hispanic physicians, today released results of a [survey](#) showing physicians report a significant increase in utilization of health care services among seniors. The survey, conducted by J. Wallin Opinion Research and commissioned by the Better Medicare Alliance, polled a nationwide sample of physicians across specialties and who serve patients enrolled in the Medicare program.

The survey found that nearly 90% of providers are seeing an increased demand for healthcare services among seniors following pandemic delays of nonessential care—and 92% expect this trend to continue. While physicians overwhelmingly agree that seniors seeking out more care is a good thing, 86% are concerned about the impacts of recent proposed payment decreases to the Medicare Advantage program.

"Hispanic enrollment in Medicare Advantage continues to grow each year, and the program plays an integral role in providing access to quality care for Hispanic seniors across the country," said Dr. Elena Rios, president and CEO of NHMA. "With rapid growth and utilization of Medicare Advantage, physicians are rightly concerned over the program stability, as payment cuts are likely to hurt seniors' access to critical care. Beneficiaries from the Hispanic community rely on Medicare Advantage's affordable, high-quality care. We cannot afford to risk program instability and jeopardize the healthcare valued by millions of seniors."

Changes to the program could mean a loss of dental, hearing, and vision coverage, reduced access to telehealth benefits, decreased allowances to help beneficiaries afford over-the-counter products, reduced behavioral health services, and more. Over nine in ten physicians say that to continue providing care to seniors, it's important that there are no reductions to Medicare Advantage reimbursement rates.

Over 32 million beneficiaries rely on a strong and stable Medicare Advantage program to get the affordable, high-quality care they need. Hispanic and Latino seniors, especially, rely on Medicare Advantage. In fact, the program now [attracts](#) the largest share of minority populations, with 69% of Latino Medicare beneficiaries, 65% of Black Medicare beneficiaries, and 60% of Asian Medicare beneficiaries choosing Medicare Advantage.

As seniors seek out more care and the program continues to support vulnerable populations, proposed changes to Medicare Advantage funding could have negative impacts on seniors. Nearly 70% of physicians agree that patients enrolled in Medicare Advantage are more likely to receive preventative care services than those in traditional Medicare, and Latino Medicare

Advantage beneficiaries are [five percentage points](#) more likely to report having a usual source of care compared to Latinos in fee-for-service Medicare. The vast majority of physicians surveyed note that reducing reimbursement rates would make it even more difficult to provide this type of care to Medicare Advantage beneficiaries.

NHMA urges the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to incorporate current utilization and cost trends when finalizing rates for 2025 to promote stability for Medicare Advantage.

Read the full survey results [here](#).

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Established in 1994 in Washington, DC, the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) is a non-profit association representing the interests of 50,000 licensed Hispanic physicians in the United States. NHMA is dedicated to empowering Hispanic physicians to be leaders who will help eliminate health disparities and improve the health of Hispanics.