CMS: More Than 70% Of Beneficiaries In MA-PD Plans With Four-Plus Stars in 2027

Oct 8, 2026, 7:51 PM EDT

(Inside Health Policy)

CMS released Thursday (Oct. 8) the 2027 Star Ratings for Medicare Advantage and Part D plans, announcing about 37% of MA-prescription drug contracts offered in 2027 will have four or more stars and, when weighted by enrollment, 71% of beneficiaries are currently in plans with at least four stars. For stand-alone Part D Plans (PDPs), about 11 contracts (27%) will have four or more stars, and 22% of enrollees are now enrolled in a plan that has four or more stars in 2027.

These ratings measure quality of health and drugs services received by enrollees. The MA Prescription Drug (MA-PD) contracts were rated on up to three quality and performance measures; MA-only contracts were rated on up to 32 measures and standalone PDP contracts on 13 measures. For each measure, the agency uses a threshold or “cut point” to determine the rating, from one to five stars. The results were posted on Medicare Plan Finder, where they can help beneficiaries and caregivers make decisions on which plan is the best fit, CMS said.

According to CMS, there are 15 MA-PD contracts that earned five stars for 2027 and will be highlighted on Medicare Plan Finder with a “high-performing icon,” six of which had the same status last year.

Four MA-PD contracts are flagged as low-performing; the same number as last year.

In a fact sheet on the ratings, CMS noted non-profit organizations more frequently earn higher ratings than for profit. For MA-PD contracts, about 44% of nonprofit plans had four or more stars compared to about 34% of for-profit plans with four or more stars.

The delta was far smaller for PDPs, where 28% of nonprofits had four or more stars compared to 27% of for-profit plans. -- *Amy Lotven* (alotven@iwpnews.com)