

# Medicare Advantage Provider Newsletter



## Q3 2024 Provider Newsletter

### Aspirus Health Plan Medicare Advantage Provider Manual Updated

Aspirus Health Plan has updated the following chapters of the [Medicare Advantage Provider Manual](#): Working With Delegated Business Services, Provider Credentialing and Claims & Payment. Specific updates are called out in Appendix A.

### Providers Asked to Verify That They are Using Correct Payer ID for Medicare Advantage Claims

The Aspirus Health Plan Medicare Advantage Payer ID is 36483 for claims submissions. Providers are responsible for confirming with their clearinghouse that the correct Payer ID is being used to submit Medicare Advantage claims to Aspirus Health Plan. If you have questions about Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) transactions, please email [EDIsupportMA@aspirushealthplan.com](mailto:EDIsupportMA@aspirushealthplan.com).

### Aspirus Health Plan Coverage Policies

Aspirus Health Plan coverage policies are available on the [Aspirus Health Plan provider website](#). Aspirus Health Plan coverage policies provide clarification and specificity for the Aspirus Health Plan Medicare contracts benefit sections.

#### Coverage policies posted to the website include:

- MEDICARE-Post Stabilization Care (CP-AMCR24-01A)
- MEDICARE-Transplants Lodging and Transportation related expenses member reimbursement (CP-AMCR24-002A)
  - MEDICARE\_TRAVEL AND LODGING REIMBURSEMENT FORM
- Category III Codes (CP-AMCR24-003A)
- Septoplasty (CP-AMCR24-004A)
- Medicare Physical Exams (CP-AMCR24-005A)

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**Aspirus Health Plan’s Provider Website**  
<https://medicare.aspirushealthplan.com/providers>

**Aspirus Health Plan’s Provider Assistance Center**  
715.631.7412 or 1.855.931.4851 toll-free

**Contact Provider News**  
[providernewsMA@aspirushealthplan.com](mailto:providernewsMA@aspirushealthplan.com)

*Aspirus Health Plan has partnered with UCare, based out of Minnesota, as the administrator for our Medicare Advantage Plan.*



- Bone Mineral Density Studies (CP-AMCR24-006A)
- Member Reimbursement (CP-MCR24-007A)
- Worldwide Travel (CP-MCR24-008A)
- Oxygen and Oxygen Equipment Policy (CP-MCR24-009A)

## Quit Smoking and Vaping Program

Aspirus Health Plan Medicare members can get help at no charge to quit smoking, vaping or chewing through the tobacco and nicotine quit line. Nicotine patches, gum or lozenges are available to eligible Aspirus Health Plan members.

Members can get help to kick the habit by:

- Calling the tobacco and nicotine quit line at 1.855.260.9713 (toll-free) TTY: 711 Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Visiting online at [myquitforlife.net/aspirus](https://myquitforlife.net/aspirus)
- Downloading the Rally Coach Quit for Life mobile app.

## Medicare Coverage Exclusion – Drugs Used for Weight Loss

Demand for weight loss drugs has recently grown. Aspirus Health Plan has seen an increase in requests for these drugs for Medicare members with Part D coverage. Medicare Part D does not cover drugs or classes of drugs, or their medical uses, which are excluded from coverage or otherwise restricted under section 1927(d)(2) of the Social Security Act. This includes agents when used for weight loss, even if used for a non-cosmetic purpose (i.e., morbid obesity). Currently, there is no pathway to coverage for drugs when used for weight loss through Medicare Part D. This exclusion is currently written into law within the Social Security Act with no exception to coverage.

## Ensuring Accurate Member ID Information

Accurate member information is key to smoother claim submissions. Providers should ask for a current member insurance card each time a member presents for services. This lets you update information in your electronic records system, which can reduce rejected claim submissions or delayed claims processing. The Aspirus Health Plan member ID number should be submitted on the claim exactly as provided. No digits should be added or excluded.

Please note that all Aspirus Health Plan Medicare Advantage members have their own unique member ID numbers (9-digit number beginning with a 4). Maintaining current insurance information for members is imperative to successful and timely claims processing. Wrong member information can cause suspected fraudulent claims investigations and HIPAA violations, so please remember to verify that the information on the claim submission matches the information of the member receiving the service (name, member ID#, birth date, address, etc.).

## Aspirus Health Plan Medicare Advantage Provider Assistance Center Holiday Hours

The Provider Assistance Center (PAC) is open Monday through Friday, 8 am – 5 pm and can be reached at 715.631.7412, or 1.855.931.4851 toll-free.

The Provider Assistance Center is **closed** for the following holiday:

- Monday, September 2, 2024 – Labor Day