

MEMORANDUM

To: PQA Members

From: PQA

Date: April 23, 2025

Re: Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Contract Year 2026 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage Program, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program, Medicare Cost Plan Program, and Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Contract Year 2026 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage Program, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program, Medicare Cost Plan Program, and Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.”

The final rule, CMS-4208-F, was published in the Federal Register on April 15, 2025, and can be found [here](#). An April 4, 2025, CMS [fact sheet](#) provides additional information on the final rule.

PQA previously summarized the associated proposed rule that preceded this publication, CMS-4208-P, available [here](#). This summary highlighted points of interest from the proposed rule for our members, including proposed updates to the Star Ratings program.

In CMS-4208-F, CMS did not finalize or address the proposals included within PQA’s proposed rule summary. These points are summarized below:

- **Part D Coverage of Anti-Obesity Medications (AOMs) and Application to the Medicaid Program**
 - Per the final rule, CMS does not intend to finalize the provision for Part D Coverage of Anti-Obesity Medications (AOMs) and Application to the Medicaid Program from the proposed rule. [P. 15795]
- **Part D Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Program Eligibility Criteria**
 - Per the final rule, CMS states that this provision may be finalized in subsequent rulemaking, as appropriate. [P. 15891]
- **Medicare Advantage/Part C and Part D Prescription Drug Plan Quality Rating System: Adding, Updating, and Removing Measures – Initial Opioid Prescribing for Long Duration (IOP-LD) (Part D)**
 - Per the final rule, CMS is not addressing this, and other proposals, in this final rule; the proposals may be addressed in a future rule. [P. 15870]

We recommend reviewing the [full text](#) for clarity and context as needed.