

The Coalition is Preparing for the New Cycle of Regulations for Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D Payments

CMS is entering the cycle of regulations for payments of Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D 2016. Funding for MA and Part D has been reduced by **\$ 1 billion annually** for the past four years. A similar cut in 2016 would be fatal for MA and Puerto Rico's health care system. Important dates for these changes are detailed as follows:

Date	Action
February 20, 2015	CMS Publishes Draft Call Letter and 45 Day Advanced Notice
February 20 to March 5, 2015	Analysis and Comments period for the 2016 Advanced Notice
March 5, 2015	PR Health & Insurance Conference (CMS and HHS NYRO Leaders Confirmed)
April 6, 2015	Final 2016 CMS Call Letter and Rate Book issued

What happens in this period will define the future of healthcare in Puerto Rico. The Coalition is working in initiatives to make positive adjustments for MA beneficiaries in Puerto Rico, such as:

- a) Suspend the application of the health insurance provider fee (HIT) :
 - a. The Puerto Rico healthcare system is paying the full HIT at 100% while the major benefits covered with new Federal expenditures do not apply to the island, including marketplace related subsidies and federally supported Medicaid expansion to 133% FPL.
- b) Include an adjustment in the STARS Rating Program considering the sociodemographic profile of Puerto Rico.
- c) Recalculate the medication adherence metrics of the STARS Rating Program adjusting for differences in benefits as a result of the LIS exclusion.
- d) Rollback risk score model to 2013.
- e) Integrate hospice benefit on MA coverage.
- f) Technical fixes for ESRD Benchmarks

Your support for these initiatives is crucial to Puerto Rico.

What can you do?

Get the information and be Active in the Puerto Rico Medicare Coalition for Fairness

- **Talk about this issue**, about the necessity to protect the Puerto Rico health care system and guarantee a fair treatment to the beneficiaries.
- Go to www.prmedicarecoalitionforfairness.org, visit Facebook and LinkedIn for a "Like" and follow us on Twitter as [@PR_CoalitionMA](https://twitter.com/PR_CoalitionMA)
- **Make your voice to be heard to support our parents, grandparents and friends with Medicare residing in Puerto Rico.**