



HAPPY NEW YEAR

During this season of gratitude and reflection, we thank you for your support and collaboration. We remain steadfast in our vision of transforming health care for seniors by empowering our physician partners.

We are excited by what lies ahead in 2022.

May the New Year continue to bring you and your family happiness, health, and prosperity!

~ From all of us at MDX Hawai'i

2022 UPDATES

Effective January 1, MDX Hawai'i is contracted with the following 2022 Medicare Advantage Plans:

Humana

Oahu

Humana Gold Plus HMO H0028-048-001
Humana Choice PPO H5216-232-001
Humana Choice PPO H5216-233-001
Humana Honor PPO H5216-234-000

Kauai & Maui

Humana Gold Plus HMO H0028-048-002
Humana Choice PPO H5216-232-002
Humana Choice PPO H5216-233-002

UnitedHealthcare

Oahu

AARP Medicare Advantage Choice Plan 1
H2228-024-000
AARP Medicare Advantage Choice Plan 2
H2228-067-000
AARP Medicare Advantage Patriot H2228-025-000

Kauai & Maui

AARP Medicare Advantage Choice H2228-068-000
AARP Medicare Advantage Patriot H2228-025-000

For more information, visit www.mdxhawaii.com





MEDICARE QUALITY STAR MEASURES

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) works with Medicare Advantage physicians and healthcare providers to improve the quality, performance, and cost-effectiveness of services provided to Medicare beneficiaries. The Medicare STARS program determines how well plans and providers perform across quality measures using data and information from various sources. These ratings are then published on the Medicare Plan Finder at www.medicare.gov.

Two clinical categories are:

- **Preventive care:** Includes how often patients receive various screening tests, vaccines, and other assessments to help them stay healthy.
- **Chronic Condition Management:** Includes how often members with different long-term conditions completed specific tests and treatments that help manage their conditions, appropriateness of medication, and medication adherence.

A Medicare Advantage STAR ratings are ranked 1-5 in each category and used to determine a plan's overall rating.

- ★★★★★ Excellent Performance
- ★★★★ Above Average Performance
- ★★★ Average Performance
- ★★ Below Average Performance
- ★ Poor Performance

Data sources used to measure the performance include:

- Clinical quality standards
- Health Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) HEDIS STARS Measures
- Pharmacy Data, including medication adherence
- Laboratory data
- Health Outcome Survey (HOS)

Year-Over-Year (YOY) Report

The MDX Hawai'i Year Over Year (YOY) Noncompliance Reports, scheduled for January and February, help identify patients to prioritize for the new year for the following STAR measures.

- Comprehensive Diabetes Care:
 - Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) testing and HbA1c <9%
 - A retinal eye exam performed
 - Statin use
- Medication adherence for cholesterol, hypertension, or diabetes
- Colorectal cancer screening
- Breast cancer screening

You may have ordered tests or prescriptions, but you may not know which patients may not have picked up their meds or followed through on your order. This report identifies the noncompliant patients. Please use the report to prioritize these patients and schedule appointments early at the beginning of the year to address their non-compliance or barriers to adherence.





SCHEDULING PATIENTS FOR EYE EXAMS, MAMMOGRAMS, DEXA, AND COLONOSCOPIES

We have a team dedicated to improving our Star ratings to improve the health of our patients and support our provider partners to continue to provide high-quality, timely, appropriate care to the patients we care for together.

This year, we would like to assist you and patients in scheduling diabetes eye exams, mammograms, DEXA scans, and colonoscopies and placing an order.

Please return [the completed form](#) directly to MDX Hawai'i Quality Team at QualityAnalysts@mdxhawaii.com or Fax: 808-451-2201. The results will be sent straight to you.

For any questions, contact us at QualityAnalysts@mdxhawaii.com

HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH MEDICATION ADHERENCE AND COMPLIANCE

Consider extended days' supply prescriptions. When clinically appropriate, consider writing 90-day prescriptions for chronic conditions. An extended supply of medications will help improve adherence, save patient money, and minimize frequent trips to the pharmacy, especially for those seniors with transportation issues. This will also reduce the prescription processing requests for your practice.

Prescribe low-cost generics. When clinically appropriate, prescribe low-cost generic medications to help reduce out-of-pocket costs, making health care more affordable.

Try home delivery. Encourage the use of mail-order pharmacy delivery services. They get their medication delivered to their home. Home delivery is very convenient and eliminates transportation issues for some older patients. The mail-order pharmacies will call patients every quarter to ensure medication adherence.

For more information, please call

OptumRx (UnitedHealthcare) at (800) 791-7658 or Humana Pharmacy at (800) 379-0092.



COMING SOON – 2022 PCP QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

We are working on final details on the 2022 Quality Incentive Program, and complete program details will be communicated via US mail, fax and/or email. The latest announcement can also be found in the MDX Hawai'i Online Provider Portal.



INFLUENZA VACCINE & COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends high-risk groups should receive the influenza vaccine, which includes the following (no hierarchy is implied by order of listing):

- Adults aged 50 years old and older;
- Persons with chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except isolated hypertension), renal, hepatic, neurologic, hematologic, or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus);
- Persons who are immunocompromised due to any cause (including medications or HIV infection);
- Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities;
- Caregivers and contacts of those at risk:
 - Health care personnel in inpatient and outpatient care settings, medical emergency-response workers, employees of nursing home and long-term care facilities who have contact with patients or residents and students in these professions who will have contact with patients;
 - Household contacts and caregivers of children aged 59 months or less (e.g., less than five years old), particularly contacts of children aged less than six months, and adults aged 50 years and older, and o Household contacts and caregivers of persons who are in one of the high-risk categories;

- Women who are or will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- Children aged 6 -59 months;
- Children and adolescents (aged six months through 18 years) receiving aspirin or salicylate-containing medications and who might be at risk for Reye syndrome);
- American Indians/Alaska Natives;
- Persons who are extremely obese (BMI is greater than or equal to 40) Several influenza vaccine formulations are approved in people 65 and old, including two designed to create a stronger immune response: the high-dose flu vaccine and the adjuvanted flu vaccine.

However, CDC does not have a preferential recommendation for any flu vaccine over another, and vaccination should not be delayed for a specific vaccine product when another vaccine licensed for use in people 65 and older is available.

COVID-19 Vaccine boosters for Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson were recently approved for patients at high risk of developing severe COVID-19. Individuals 65 years of age and older are included in the high-risk group. Individuals 65 years of age and older who qualify for the Influenza vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine booster should receive both vaccines as soon as possible without delay. CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccines to be administered without regard to the timing of other vaccines, including simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day.

For more information about the influenza vaccine, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2021-2022.htm>

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>

Thank you for your continued collaboration and support as we remain steadfast in our commitment to improve the well-being of the patient communities we serve together.