

Medicare Advantage: Failing patients and jeopardizing Nebraska hospitals.

Prepared by the Nebraska Hospital Association

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COUNTY HOSPITAL

DELAY PATIENT CARE

Medicare Advantage can delay patients from receiving appropriate care and increase overall health care costs. 98% of Nebraska hospitals reported prior authorization requirements by Medicare Advantage negatively impact patients by delaying necessary care.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE HARMS RURAL NEBRASKA. NEBRASKA CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS REPORT THAT IF THEIR PATIENT SERVICE AREA CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE ENROLLMENT:

51% it may become necessary to reduce clinical services

73% limit new equipment purchases

46% make cutbacks to staffing

Medicare Advantage harms rural hospitals

100% of Nebraska's critical access hospitals say an increase in Medicare Advantage plans will challenge their future financial position.

Medicare Advantage delays patients from receiving appropriate care.

84% of Nebraska hospitals report it is more difficult to get post-acute placements approved for Medicare Advantage patients than traditional Medicare patients.

Medicare Advantage plans deny care more often than traditional Medicare and can delay your treatment when you need it most.

85% of Nebraska hospitals report Medicare Advantage plans negatively impact the care their hospital is able to provide to patients.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS CAN UNDERMINE PHYSICIAN EXPERTISE AND DISREGARD A PATIENT'S INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL NEEDS.

Nebraska hospitals reported their biggest challenges with Medicare Advantage are prior authorization requirements and payment denials.

Nebraska care teams are spending more and more time justifying their care decisions, taking away from their ability to treat patients. 91% of hospitals reported

additional staffing related to caring for Medicare Advantage patients, often due to prior authorizations and appeals for claim denials.

Hospitals and health care systems are cornerstones of the community and provide much needed access to affordable, quality health care for patients close to home.

Over 91% of Nebraska hospitals report the trend toward Medicare Advantage plans has negatively impacted their financial position. This can lead to cuts that impact patient care.

NHA
NEBRASKA
HOSPITALS

Negative Patient Experiences with Medicare Advantage

"A patient had a type of prostate cancer that has a higher risk of spreading beyond the prostate gland. Our local radiation oncologist wanted to treat him with the standard fractionation dose of 45 treatments in accordance with the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines. The patient's MA plan went against the physician's medical advice and authorized only 28 treatments.

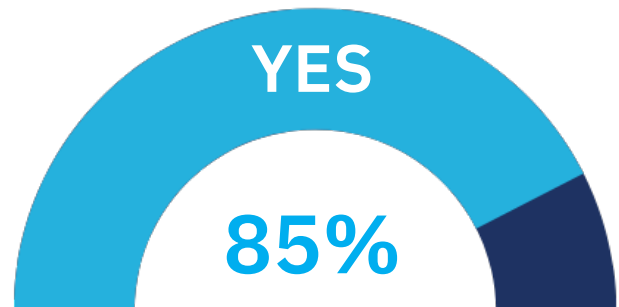
Our physician ordered a test which indicated a malignancy, confirming their desire for 45 treatments. The MA plan would not cover this treatment plan and again only authorized 28 treatments. The physician was concerned the patient would not receive a complete response to the shorter course of treatment."

"We had a patient needing a CT scan due to a history of lymphoma and new symptoms. Medicare Advantage prior authorization denied the scan as not medically necessary. Our physician called the insurance plan the day after denial of prior authorization to do a peer-to-peer review and was told that the case was already closed."

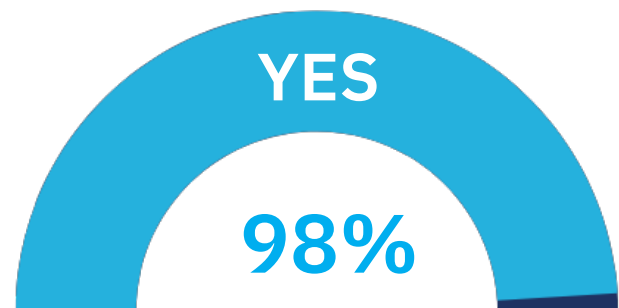
"We had a patient that suffered from a heart attack and was receiving cardiac rehabilitation after he was released from the hospital. His MA plan imposed a copay for each visit he had with our Cardiac team - costing him over \$1,000 out of pocket. He ultimately decided to not continue with the Cardiac Rehab because he could not afford it."

MA Prior Authorization Restricts Necessary Care

85% of NE hospitals report that Medicare Advantage plans negatively impact the care their hospital is able to provide to patients.



Almost 98% of NE hospitals report that prior authorization requirements by Medicare Advantage plans negatively impact clinical care and DELAY necessary care.



If you or a family member has additional questions about Medicare Advanatge, please contact our Certified Nebraska SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) Counselor's at Fillmore County Hospital by calling (402) 759-3167