CY2021 Medicare Parts C and D Annual Calendar

Below is a calendar listing of key dates and timelines for operational activities that pertain to CY2021 Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug (MA-PD) plans, Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs), Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs), and cost-based plans. The calendar provides important operational dates for all organizations such as the date bids are due to CMS, the date that organizations must inform CMS of their contract non-renewal, and dates for beneficiary mailings.

*Note: The dates listed under Part C include MA and MA-PD plans. The dates listed under Part D also apply to MA and cost-based plans offering a Part D benefit.		*Part C	*Part D	Cost	MMP
January 1 – March 31, 2020	Annual Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period.	✓			
January 7, 2020	Contract Year (CY) 2021 Initial and Service Area Expansion Applications for MA/MA-PD/PDP, MMP, SNP, EGWP, and 1876 Cost Plan Expansion Applications are posted on the CMS website.	✓	✓	✓	✓
January 8, 2020	Contract Year (CY) 2021 Initial and Service Area Expansion Applications for MA/MA-PD/PDP, MMP, SNP, EGWP, and 1876 Cost Plan Expansion Applications are released in HPMS for organizations to begin submitting information.	✓	✓	✓	✓
January 8, 2020	Model of Care (MOC) renewal submission period begins for D-SNPs and I-SNPs with Model of Care (MOC) approvals ending 12/31/2020.	✓			
January 8, 2020	Annual MOC submission period begins for C-SNPs.	✓			
January 8 & 15, 2020	Industry training on CY 2021 Applications.	✓	✓	✓	✓
January 24, 2020	Final day to submit Notice of Intent to Apply (NOIA) for 2021.	✓	✓	✓	✓
February 5, 2020	CMS releases instructional memo concerning updates to Parent Organization designations in HPMS.	✓	✓	✓	✓
February 6, 2020	Release Preliminary CY 2021 Part C Benefits Review and Evaluation.	✓		✓	
February 6, 2020	Release Final CY 2021 Part D Bidding Instructions.		✓		
February 12, 2020	CY 2021 Initial and Service Area Expansion Applications for MA/MA-PD/PDP, MMP, SNP, EGWP, and 1876 Cost Plan Expansion Applications are due in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) by 8pm EST.	✓	✓	✓	✓
February 12, 2020	MOC renewal submissions for D-SNPs and I-SNPs with MOC approvals ending 12/31/2019 due in HPMS by 8pm EST.	✓			

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February 12, 2020	Annual MOC submissions for C-SNPs due in HPMS by 8pm EST.	✓			
March 16, 2020	Parent Organization designation updates from MAOs and sponsors due to CMS (instructional memo released in February 2020).	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mid-Late March, 2020	Release of CY 2021 Formulary Reference File (FRF).	✓	✓	✓	✓
March 20, 2020	Release of the Fiscal Soundness Module in HPMS.	✓	✓	✓	✓
March/April, 2020	CMS coordinates with MAOs and PDP Sponsors to resolve low enrollment issues for CY 2021.	✓	✓	✓	
Early/Mid-April, 2020	CY 2021 Bid Review Out-Of-Pocket Cost (OOPC) model and OOPC estimates available for download to MAOs, and Part D sponsors to assist in meeting meaningful difference (if applicable) and Total Beneficiary Cost (TBC) evaluations prior to bid submission.	✓	✓	✓	
Early April, 2020	Release of guidance regarding CY 2021 renewal options, including crosswalks.	✓			
April 6, 2020	Release of the 2021 Final Rate Announcement of MA Capitation Rates and MA and Part D Payment Policies.	✓	✓	✓	✓
April 2020	Conference call with industry on the CY 2021 Rate Announcement.	✓	✓	✓	✓
April 8, 2020	Release Final CY 2021 Part C Benefits Review and Evaluation.	✓		✓	
April 10, 2020	Release of the CY 2021 Plan Creation Module, Plan Benefit Package (PBP), and Bid Pricing Tool (BPT) software in HPMS.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Early April, 2020	Deadline for MAOs and cost plans to submit full contract consolidation requests for CY 2021.	✓		✓	
Mid-April, 2020	Release of CY 2021 MA Bid Review and Operational Information.	✓		✓	
TBD	Release of the CY 2021 Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Program Submission in HPMS (12:01 a.m. EST).		✓		✓
Late April, 2020	Release of CY 2021 TBC data.	✓			
May 2020	Release of final CY 2021 ANOC/EOC, LIS rider, Part D EOB, formularies, transition notice, provider directory, and pharmacy directory models for all organizations.	✓	✓	✓	

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Early May 2020	Deadline for MA, MA-PD and PDP plans to notify CMS of their intention to non-renew a county (ies) or region(s) for individuals, but continue the county (ies) or region(s) for "800 series" EGWP members, to convert to offering employer-only contracts, or to reduce service areas at the contract level.	✓	✓	✓	
May 1, 2020	Release of the CY 2021 Bid Upload Functionality in HPMS.	✓	✓	✓	✓
TBD	Deadline for submission of CY 2021 MTM Programs from all sponsors offering Part D, including Medicare-Medicaid Plans (except those participating in the Enhanced MTM Model test) (11:59 p.m. PDT).		✓		✓
May 8, 2020	Release of CY 2021 Actuarial Certification Module in HPMS.	✓	✓	✓	✓
May 11, 2020	Release of CY2021 Formulary Submission Module in HPMS.	✓	✓	✓	
May-July, 2020	Release of final state-specific MMP CY 2021 models: ANOC/EOC (Member Handbook), Summary of Benefits, Formulary, Provider and Pharmacy Directory, Member ID Card, and other MMP-specific models.				✓
TBD	Deadline for submission of CY 2021 MTM Program attestations in HPMS (11:59 pm PDT).		✓		✓
Mid-Late May, 2020	Release of CY 2021 Formulary Reference File Update.	✓	✓	✓	✓
May 29, 2020	Submission period begins for Plans/Part D sponsors to upload agent/broker compensation information in HPMS.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Late May 2020	Qualification determinations provided to CY 2021 applicants for new contracts or service area expansions.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Late May 2020	Release of the CY 2021 D-SNP module for D-SNPs to upload required State Medicaid Agency Contract and Contract Matrix to HPMS.	✓			
June 1, 2020	Opening of the 2019 DIR Submission Module in HPMS.	✓	✓	✓	✓

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June 1, 2020	Deadline for submission of CY 2021 bids (including Service Area Verification) for all MA plans, MA-PD plans, PDP, cost-based plans offering a Part D benefit, Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs), "800 series" EGWP and direct contract EGWP applicants and renewing organizations; deadline for cost-based plans wishing to appear in the 2021 Medicare Plan Finder to submit PBPs (11:59 p.m. PDT).

Deadline for submission of CY 2021 Formularies, Transition Attestations, Prior Authorization/Step Therapy (PA/ST) Attestations, and P&T Attestations due from all sponsors offering Part D including Medicare-Medicaid Plans (11:59 p.m. PDT).

Deadline for submission of a CY 2021 contract non-renewal, service area reduction via HPMS from MA plans, MA-PD plans, MMPs, PDPs and Medicare cost-based contractors and cost- based sponsors to Deadline also applies to an MAO that intends to terminate a current MA and/or MA-PD plan benefit package (i.e., Plan 01, Plan 02) for CY 2021. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ *Non-bid related items only* |
June 1, 2020	Submission period begins for Plans/Part D sponsors to submit CY 2021 marketing materials in the HPMS Marketing Module.	✓	✓	✓	✓
June 2020	CMS conducts provider Network Adequacy Reviews.	✓		✓	
June 5, 2020	Deadline for submission of CY 2021 Supplemental Formulary files, Free First Fill file, Partial Gap file, Excluded Drug file, Over the Counter (OTC) drug file, and Home Infusion file through HPMS (11:59 a.m. EDT).		✓		✓
June 5, 2020	Deadline for submission of Value-Based Insurance Design (VBID) Supplemental Formulary file (Only applicable to MA plans that have been preapproved for Part D VBID benefits) (11:59 a.m. EDT).	✓			
June 5, 2020	Deadline for submission of Additional Demonstration Drug (ADD) file (MMPs only) (11:59 a.m. EDT).				✓
Early June to Late August 2020	Completion of CMS's CY 2021 bid review and approval, to include pricing, plan benefit packages, and formularies. Deadline for Plans/Part D sponsors submit attestations, contracts, initial actuarial certifications, and final actuarial certifications.	✓	✓	✓	✓
June 2020	Initial submission period begins for Plans/Part D sponsors to request crosswalk exceptions.	✓	✓	✓	

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Late June 2020	Acknowledgement letter sent to all MA, MA-PD, MMP, PDP and Medicare cost-based plans that are non-renewing or reducing their service area.	✔	✔	✔	✔
July-August, 2020	Release of state-specific marketing guidance for MMPs.				✔
Early July 2020	Submission period for CY2021 Medicare Plan Finder drug pricing test files in HPMS.	✔	✔	✔	✔
July 6, 2020	Deadline for all D-SNPs to upload required State Medicaid Agency Contract and Contract Matrix to HPMS.	✔			
Mid July 2020	Release of CY 2021 FRF Update in advance of the Limited Formulary Update Window.	✔	✔	✔	✔
Late July / Early August 2020	CY 2021 Limited Formulary Update Window.	✔	✔	✔	✔
Late July 2020	Submission deadline for agent/broker compensation information via HPMS.	✔	✔	✔	✔
July 2020	Second submission period begins for Plans/Part D sponsors to request crosswalk exceptions in HPMS.	✔	✔	✔	
Late July 2020	Release of the CY 2021 Part D national average monthly bid amount, the Medicare Part D base beneficiary premium, the Part D regional low-income premium subsidy amounts, the Medicare Advantage regional PPO benchmarks, and the de minimis amount.	✔	✔	✔	✔
Late July / Early August 2020	Rebate reallocation period begins after release of bid amounts.	✔		✔	
No Later Than July 29, 2020	If CMS issues a termination notice on or before this date with an effective date of December 31, 2020, 11:59pm, the MAO must issue notices to its Medicare enrollees at least 90 days (instead of at least 30 days) prior to the effective date of the termination.	✔	✔	✔	
August 12-14, 2020	First CY 2021 Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) drug pricing plan preview in HPMS.		✔		✔
August 13-17, 2020	CY2021 Medicare & You Handbook data plan preview period (not applicable to EGWPs).	✔	✔	✔	✔
August 14, 2020	Deadline for organizations to complete the plan connectivity data in HPMS to ensure timely approval of contracts.	✔	✔	✔	✔
August 19-21, 2020	First CY 2021 Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) benefit and OOPC data plan preview in HPMS.	✔	✔	✔	✔ *MPF only*
TBD	CY 2021 MTM Program Annual Review completed.		✔		✔
August 31, 2020	CY 2021 contract execution deadline.	✔	✔	✔	✔

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Late August 2020	CY 2021 Contracting Materials countersigned in HPMS.	✓	✓	✓	
Late August 2020	CMS notifies all D-SNPs of final determinations of integration status and sanctions based on CY 2021 State Medicaid Agency Contracts (SMACs).	✓			
Late August / Early September 2020	Deadline after which organizations with pending administrative appeals of Initial or Service Area Expansion applications may be suppressed from Medicare & You Handbook and Medicare Plan Finder.	✓	✓	✓	
August/ September 2020	Plan preview periods of Part C & D Star Ratings in HPMS.	✓	✓	✓	
September 5, 2020	Plans submit transactions for approved crosswalk transactions according to the End-of-Year Enrollment and Payment Systems Processing Information memo.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Early September 2020	CMS begins accepting plan correction requests upon contract approval.	✓	✓	✓	
Mid-September 2020	All CY 2021 contracts fully executed (signed by both parties: Part C/Part D Sponsor and CMS).	✓	✓	✓	
September 9-11, 2020	Second CY 2021 Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) drug pricing plan preview in HPMS.		✓		✓
September 9-11, 2020	Second CY 2021 Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) benefit and OOPC data plan preview in HPMS.	✓	✓	✓	✓ *MPF only*
September 16 - 30, 2020	CMS mails the 2021 Medicare & You handbook to beneficiaries.	✓	✓	✓	✓
TBD	Optional CY 2021 Formulary Enhancement Submission Window.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Late September 2020	Deadline for Part D sponsors, cost-based plans, and MA and MA-PD organizations to request a plan correction to the PBP via HPMS.	✓	✓	✓	
September 30, 2020	Deadline for organizations to provide the following documents to current enrollees: • Standardized Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) for all MA, MA-PD, MMP, PDP, and cost-based plans (including those not offering Part D and those that do offer Part D). Must be submitted in HPMS prior to distribution. • LIS rider.	✓	✓	✓	✓
October 1, 2020	Date organizations may begin marketing their CY 2021 plans. Organizations may market both CY 2020 and CY 2021 simultaneously, but must clearly indicate which plan year is being discussed.	✓	✓	✓	✓

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October 1, 2020	Projected date for release of the CY 2021 plan and drug benefit data on Medicare Plan Finder on Medicare.gov (not applicable to EGWPs).	✔	✔	✔	✔
October 2, 2020	Date by which the final personalized beneficiary non-renewal notification letter must be received by PDP, MA plan, MA-PD plan, MMP and cost-based plan enrollees. PDPs, MA plans, MA-PD plans, MMPs and cost-based organizations may not market new/other plans to enrollees of non-renewing plans until after October 2, 2020.	✔	✔	✔	✔
Early/Mid October 2020	Part C & D Star Ratings go live on medicare.gov on or around October 8, 2020.	✔	✔	✔	
October 15, 2020	Deadline for organizations to submit ANOC Erratas in HPMS. Must be sent to enrollees immediately following CMS approval.	✔	✔	✔	✔
October 15, 2020	Deadline for organizations to provide the following documents (or notification, if permitted) to current enrollees: • Evidence of Coverage (EOC) for all MA, MA-PD, MMP, PDP, and cost-based plans (including those not offering Part D and those that do offer Part D). Must be submitted in HPMS prior to distribution. • Abridged or comprehensive formularies • Provider/Pharmacy directories	✔	✔	✔	✔
October 15, 2020	Part D sponsors must post prior authorization and Part D step therapy criteria on their websites for CY 2021.		✔		✔
October 15, 2020	CY 2021 Annual Election Period begins. Organizations must begin downloading CY 2021 Online Enrollment Center (OEC) transactions from HPMS All MA organizations/PDP sponsors must hold open enrollment (for EGWPs, see Chapter 2 of the Medicare Managed Care Manual, Section 30.1).	✔	✔		✔
Mid October 2020	Release of the online CY 2021 Notice of Intent to Apply (NOIA) for a New Contract or a Contract Expansion (MA, MA-PD, MMP, PDPs, and "800 series" EGWPs and Direct Contract EGWPs).	✔	✔	✔	✔
November 2, 2020	Deadline for Cost-Plans to non-renew/terminate a contract.			✔	
November 11, 2020	NOIA deadline to ensure access to HPMS.	✔	✔	✔	✔
Late November 2020	Part C & D display measures data are posted in HPMS for plan preview.	✔	✔	✔	

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December 1, 2020	Cost-based plans must publish notice of mutual termination, as per §417.494(a)(3) of Title 42 of the CFR.			✓	
December 1, 2020	Deadline for CMS User ID connectivity forms to ensure user access to HPMS by January 2021.	✓	✓	✓	✓
December 7, 2020	CY 2021 Annual Election Period ends.	✓	✓		✓
Mid December 2020	Part C & D display measures data is updated on cms.gov.	✓	✓	✓	
December 31, 2020	Deadline for submitting CY 2021 Annual Chronic Care Improvement Program (CCIP) attestations in HPMS, as per §422.152 of Title 42 of the CFR.	✓			✓
2021					
January 1, 2021	Plan Benefit Period Begins.	✓	✓	✓	✓
January 1 – March 31, 2021	Annual Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period.	✓			
Early January 2021	Release of CY 2022 MAO/MA-PD/MMP/PDP/EGWP applications.	✓	✓		✓
Early January 2021	Industry training on CY 2022 applications.	✓	✓	✓	✓
February 2021	CY 2022 Initial and Service Area Expansion Applications for MA/MA-PD/PDP, MMP, SNP, EGWP, and 1876 Cost Plan Expansion Applications are due.	✓	✓	✓	✓
February 2021	MOC renewal submissions for D-SNPs, I-SNPs, and MMPs with MOC approvals ending 12/31/2021 are due.	✓			✓
February 2021	Annual MOC submissions for C-SNPs are due.	✓			✓
June 7, 2021	CY 2022 Deadline for bid and formulary submission.	✓	✓	✓	✓ *Non-bid related items only*