§ 422.451 Moratorium on new local preferred provider organization plans.

CMS will not approve the offering of a local preferred provider organization plan during 2006 or 2007 in a service area unless the MA organization seeking to offer the plan was offering a local preferred provider organization plan in the service area before December 31, 2005.

§ 422.455 Special rules for MA Regional Plans.

(a) Coverage of entire MA region. The service area for an MA regional plan will consist of an entire MA region established under paragraph (b) of this section, and an MA region may not be segmented as described in §422.262(c)(2).

(b) Establishment of MA regions—(1) MA region. The term “MA region” means a region within the 50 States and the District of Columbia as established by CMS under this section.

(2) Establishment—(i) Initial establishment. By January 1, 2005, CMS will establish and publish the MA regions.

(ii) Periodic review and revision of service areas. CMS may periodically review MA regions and may revise the regions if it determines the revision to be appropriate.

(3) Requirements for MA regions. CMS will establish, and may revise, MA regions in a manner consistent with the following:

(i) Number of regions. There will be no fewer than 10 regions, and no more than 50 regions.

(ii) Maximizing availability of plans. The main purpose of the regions is to maximize the availability of MA regional plans to all MA eligible individuals without regard to health status, or geographic location, especially those residing in rural areas.

(4) Market survey and analysis. Before establishing MA regions, CMS will conduct a market survey and analysis, including an examination of current insurance markets, to assist CMS in determining how the regions should be established.

(c) National plan. An MA regional plan can be offered in more than one MA region (including all regions).


(a) Terminology. For purposes of this section—

Allowable costs means, with respect to an MA regional plan offered by an organization for a year, the total amount of costs that the organization incurred in providing benefits covered under the original Medicare fee-for-service program option for all enrollees under the plan in the region in the year and in providing rebatable integrated benefits, as defined in this paragraph, reduced by the portion of those costs attributable to administrative expenses incurred in providing those benefits.

Rebatable integrated benefits means those non-drug supplemental benefits that are funded through beneficiary rebates (described at §422.266(b)(1)) and that CMS determines are additional health benefits not covered under the original Medicare program option and that require expenditures by the plan. For purposes of the calculation of risk corridors, these are the only supplemental benefits that count toward allowable costs.

Target amount means, with respect to an MA regional plan offered by an organization in a year, the total amount of payments made to the organization for enrollees in the plan for the year (which includes payments attributable to benefits under the original Medicare fee-for-service program option as defined in §422.100(c)(1), the total of the MA monthly basic beneficiary premium collectible for those enrollees for the year, and the total amount of rebatable integrated benefits), reduced by the amount of administrative expenses assumed in the portion of the bid attributable to benefits under original Medicare fee-for-service program.