

CAPITOL STREET

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Medicare Advantage Landscape Files 2026

MA & Part D Premiums Decline, Ongoing Plan Exits, Supplemental Benefits Stable

Relevant Companies



»» Our Take & Next Up

CMS released MA landscapes ([here](#)) with a projected decline in premiums (MA to \$14.00, and Part D to \$34.50) overall from 2025 to 2026 ([here](#)). The agency frames this as a stable environment, but the MA program continues to face various headwinds. \$0-premium plans continue to dominate and remain the most widely available option for beneficiaries. CMS's rejection of outlier Part D bids and rollback of the stabilization demo underscore the agency's return to market-based pricing. We expect to see a steady migration from standalone PDPs to MA-PD offerings. Next Up (1) Stars for payment year 2027 expected early October, as soon as Oct. 1, CNC and UNH released preliminary Star data (2) Open enrollment starts Oct. 15, and ends Dec. 7 (3) We could see MA formulary files and supplemental benefit files released on Oct. 15 (4) CY 27 Advanced Notice will be released Jan/Feb 2026 (5) CY 27 MA Technical Rule will be released in April 2026.

»» Key Points

We expected MA and Part D files would reflect continued pressure on plan availability and affordability, with reductions in both MA and standalone footprints, as a result of market conditions (our take [here](#)). Yet \$0-premium plans remain widely available. Additionally, a new CMS feature called Planfinder will provide enhanced provider information and supplement benefit labeling.

On Part D, recall in July CMS released 2026 premiums and bids, rejected certain standalone (PDP) bids for the first time ever, and scaled back the premium demo (our take [here](#)). These updates reinforce the ongoing declining PDP availability and beneficiary switches to Medicare Advantage - PD offerings. Average plan bids rose 33% year-over-year and for the first time, CMS exercised its authority to reject several standalone PDP bids that included excessive premium increases. While the Part D Premium Stabilization Demonstration (caps premium increases, reduces the base beneficiary premium, and narrows risk corridors) remains in place for 2026, its parameters were scaled back, reducing federal protections and shifting towards market driven pricing.

FIGURE 1: SAMPLING OF 2026 MEDICARE ADVANTAGE (MA) PREMIUMS

State	2026	2025	% Change
FL	\$2.11	\$4.09	-48.4%
TX	\$4.35	\$6.14	-29.1%
OH	\$13.54	\$14.26	-5.1%
CA	\$13.99	\$12.61	+11%
NY	\$40.49	\$39.59	+2.3%
IL	\$8.51	\$8.10	+5.1%
GA	\$6.74	\$13.76	-51.1%
WA	\$18.20	\$21.91	-17%

Sources: [CMS](#) and *Capitol Street*, 2025

The skinny

- **MA Premiums will decline, on average.** Average monthly plan premium for all MA plans – which includes MA plans that provide prescription drug coverage and MA Special Needs Plans (SNPs) – is projected to decline from \$16.40 in 2025 to \$14.00 in 2026.
- **The average total Part D premium is projected to decline as well by \$3.81, from \$38.31 in 2025 to \$34.50 in 2026.** This premium does not reflect the premium that enrollees pay, as it is before the application of MA rebate dollars to the Part D premium. After the application of MA rebates, which reflects what people in MA plans with prescription drug coverage will actually pay, the average Part D total premium for MA plans with prescription drug coverage is projected to decrease from \$13.32 in 2025 to \$11.50 in 2026 (a decrease of \$1.82). The agency also noted most beneficiaries in a standalone Part D plan are enrolled in a standalone PDP through a plan that took part in the 2026 Part D stabilization demo.
- **Supplemental benefits remain stable, including MA supplemental benefit offerings such as hearing, dental and vision.** During the open enrollment period (Oct. 15 - Dec. 7), beneficiaries can compare coverage options on Medicare.gov and the new Medicare Plan Finder, which now include additional details on supplemental benefits like weight management programs, and an AI-powered prescription cost estimator.
- **Enrollment in MA is projected to decline slightly to 34 M in 2026, down from 34.9 M in 2025, representing a 2.6% decrease.** MA's share of total Medicare enrollment would fall to 48% in 2026 from 50% in 2025, a notable shift given that MA now covers over half of all beneficiaries. CMS notes that actual enrollment may be more stable and higher than the plans' projections, based on recent trends.
- **The trend of plan exits persists, with major insurers continuing to scale back their Medicare Advantage offerings in 2026.** Last year, many plans withdrew their Medicare Advantage from various counties (our take [here](#)). Currently, insurers like United, Humana and Elevance are scaling back MA plans due to rising medical costs and declining profitability. Furthermore regulatory and congressional scrutiny like RADV and *No Upcodes* (our take [here](#)), adds to the pressure.

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