

can offer to its Medicare enrollees as an additional, mandatory supplemental, or optional supplemental benefit. Under the POS benefit option, the M+C plan allows members the option of receiving specified services outside of the M+C plan's provider network. In return for this flexibility, members typically have higher cost-sharing requirements for services received and, where offered as a mandatory or optional supplemental benefit, may also be charged a premium for the POS benefit option.

Provider means—

(1) Any individual who is engaged in the delivery of health care services in a State and is licensed or certified by the State to engage in that activity in the State; and

(2) Any entity that is engaged in the delivery of health care services in a State and is licensed or certified to deliver those services if such licensing or certification is required by State law or regulation.

Provider network means the providers with which an M+C organization contracts or makes arrangements to furnish covered health care services to Medicare enrollees under an M+C coordinated care or network MSA plan.

Religious and fraternal benefit (RFB) society means an organization that—

(1) Is described in section 501(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Act; and

(2) Is affiliated with, carries out the tenets of, and shares a religious bond with, a church or convention or association of churches or an affiliated group of churches.

RFB plan means an M+C plan that is offered by an RFB society.

Service area means a geographic area approved by HCFA within which an M+C-eligible individual may enroll in a particular M+C plan offered by an M+C organization. Each M+C plan must be available to all M+C-eligible individuals within the plan's service area. In deciding whether to approve an M+C plan's proposed service area, HCFA considers the following criteria:

(1) Whether the area meets the "county integrity rule" that a service area generally consists of a full county or counties. However, HCFA may approve a service area that includes a

portion of a county if it determines that the "partial county" area is necessary, nondiscriminatory, and in the best interests of the beneficiaries.

(2) The extent to which the proposed services area mirrors service areas of existing commercial health care plans or M+C plans offered by the organization.

(3) For M+C coordinated care plans and network M+C MSA plans, whether the contracting provider network meets the access and availability standards set forth in §422.112. Although not all contracting providers must be located within the plan's service area, HCFA must determine that all services covered under the plan are accessible from the service area.

(4) For non-network M+C MSA plans, HCFA may approve single county non-network M+C MSA plans even if the M+C organization's commercial plans have multiple county service areas.

[63 FR 35068, June 26, 1998, as amended at 65 FR 40314, June 29, 2000]

§ 422.4 Types of M+C plans.

(a) *General rule.* An M+C plan may be a coordinated care plan, a combination of an M+C MSA plan and a contribution into an M+C MSA established in accordance with §422.262, or an M+C private fee-for-service plan.

(1) *A coordinated care plan.* A coordinated care plan is a plan that includes a network of providers that are under contract or arrangement with the organization to deliver the benefit package approved by HCFA.

(i) The network is approved by HCFA to ensure that all applicable requirements are met, including access and availability, service area, and quality.

(ii) Coordinated care plans may include mechanisms to control utilization, such as referrals from a gatekeeper for an enrollee to receive services within the plan, and financial arrangements that offer incentives to providers to furnish high quality and cost-effective care.

(iii) Coordinated care plans include plans offered by health maintenance organizations (HMOs), provider-sponsored organizations (PSOs), preferred

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provider organizations (PPOs) as specified in paragraph (a)(1)(iv) of this section, RFBs, and other network plans (except network MSA plans).

(iv) A PPO plan is a plan that has a network of providers that have agreed to a contractually specified reimbursement for covered benefits with the organization offering the plan; provides for reimbursement for all covered benefits regardless of whether the benefits are provided within the network of providers; and is offered by an organization that is not licensed or organized under State law as an HMO.

(2) *A combination of an M+C MSA plan and a contribution into the M+C MSA established in accordance with § 422.262.* (i) *M+C MSA plan* means a plan that—

(A) Pays at least for the services described in § 422.101, after the enrollee has incurred countable expenses (as specified in the plan) equal in amount to the annual deductible specified in § 422.103(d); and

(B) Meets all other applicable requirements of this part.

(ii) An M+C MSA plan may be either a network plan or a non-network plan.

(A) *M+C network MSA plan* means an MSA plan under which enrollees must receive services through a defined provider network that is approved by HCFA to ensure that all applicable requirements are met, including access and availability, service area, and quality.

(B) *M+C non-network MSA plan* means an MSA plan under which enrollees are not required to receive services through a provider network.

(iii) *M+C MSA* means a trust or custodial account—

(A) That is established in conjunction with an MSA plan for the purpose of paying the qualified expenses of the account holder; and

(B) Into which no deposits are made other than contributions by HCFA under the M+C program, or a trustee-to-trustee transfer or rollover from another M+C MSA of the same account holder, in accordance with the requirements of sections 138 and 220 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(3) *M+C private fee-for-service plan.* An M+C private fee-for-service plan is an M+C plan that—

(i) Pays providers of services at a rate determined by the plan on a fee-for-service basis without placing the provider at financial risk;

(ii) Does not vary the rates for a provider based on the utilization of that provider's services; and

(iii) Does not restrict enrollees' choices among providers that are lawfully authorized to provide services and agree to accept the plan's terms and conditions of payment.

(b) *Multiple plans.* Under its contract, an M+C organization may offer multiple plans, regardless of type, provided that the M+C organization is licensed or approved under State law to provide those types of plans (or, in the case of a PSO plan, has received from HCFA a waiver of the State licensing requirement). If an M+C organization has received a waiver for the licensing requirement to offer a PSO plan, that waiver does not apply to the licensing requirement for any other type of M+C plan.

[63 FR 35068, June 26, 1998, as amended at 65 FR 40315, June 29, 2000]

§ 422.6 Application requirements.

(a) *Scope.* This section sets forth application requirements for entities that seek a contract as an M+C organization offering an M+C plan.

(b) *Completion of an application.* (1) In order to obtain a determination on whether it meets the requirements to become an M+C organization and is qualified to provide a particular type of M+C plan, an entity, or an individual authorized to act for the entity (the applicant) must complete a certified application, in the form and manner required by HCFA, including the following:

(i) Documentation of appropriate State licensure or State certification that the entity is able to offer health insurance or health benefits coverage that meets State-specified standards applicable to M+C plans, and is authorized by the State to accept prepaid capitation for providing, arranging, or paying for the comprehensive health care services to be offered under the M+C contract; or

(ii) Federal waiver as described in subpart H of this part.