



## Medicare Advantage Policy Basics:

# What Medicaid Officials Need to Know About the Medicare Advantage Star Rating System

For state officials actively working with Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) to advance integration, or those newly examining ways to enhance D-SNP contracts, it is essential to understand how the federal Medicare Advantage program works. This training video, ***What Medicaid Officials Need to Know About the Medicare Advantage Star Rating System***, was developed to help Medicaid and partner agency staff understand the purpose and key features of the Medicare Advantage Star Rating system, as well as its importance to consumers, health plans, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The training video also describes the relevance of the rating system to Medicaid agencies partnering with D-SNPs to improve care for dually eligible individuals.

### Through this training, viewers will become more familiar with:

1. How the rating system is used to measure the quality of health and drug services received by enrollees
2. The domains, measures, and data sources used in the rating system
3. How potential enrollees can use Star Ratings to compare Medicare Advantage plans
4. The impact of Star Ratings on Medicare Advantage plan payments, contracting, and enrollment
5. State opportunities to use Medicare quality data and ratings to understand and monitor D-SNPs

## Why This Matters to States

### States advancing integrated care can:

- ✓ Use Medicare quality data from D-SNPs to examine plan performance and help identify and advance Medicaid quality improvement and population health goals.
- ✓ Partner with State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) to help educate potential enrollees on Star Ratings and how to compare plans.
- ✓ Monitor plan performance and consider how potential CMS actions against low performing plans could impact a state's Medicaid managed care or D-SNP contracting strategy.

### ABOUT THE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE POLICY BASICS SERIES

This overview and companion video is part of a series, ***Medicare Advantage Policy Basics***, produced by the **Center for Health Care Strategies** through the ***Medicare Academy***, an initiative made possible by **Arnold Ventures**, **The Commonwealth Fund**, and **The SCAN Foundation**.

Visit [www.chcs.org/medicare-medicaid-capacity](http://www.chcs.org/medicare-medicaid-capacity) to view additional videos on the following topics:

- Medicare Advantage Contracting and Bid Development
- Medicare Advantage Payment Policy and Rate Setting
- Medicare Advantage Supplemental Benefits