

## **Factors affecting variation in Medicare Advantage plan star ratings**

**ISSUE:** To what extent do factors such as the disability status and Medicare-Medicaid dual eligibility status of a Medicare Advantage plan's enrollees affect plan star ratings?

**KEY POINTS:** We present findings of our analysis of variation in quality measures across plans that reflect differences in the plans' population mix, and we evaluate how great an impact such differences have. We discuss alternative ways of determining a plan's star rating for quality bonus payment purposes to the extent that a modification to the star rating system may be justified.

**ACTION:** Commissioners will discuss the direction of any additional work on this issue.

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