C-SNPs: Chronic Condition Special Needs Plans

Chronic Condition Special Needs Plans (C-SNPs) are a specific type of Medicare Advantage plan that are designed to provide targeted care to individuals with chronic conditions, primarily through improved coordination and continuity of care. C-SNPs enroll individuals who, according to Section 1859(b)(6)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act, “have one or more co-morbid and medically complex chronic conditions that are substantially disabling or life threatening; have a high risk of hospitalization or other significant adverse health outcomes; and require specialized delivery systems across domains of care.”

Approved Conditions

There are currently 15 chronic conditions approved for C-SNPs:

(1) Chronic alcohol and other drug dependence
(2) Autoimmune disorders limited to:
   • Polyarteritis nodosa
   • Polymyalgia rheumatica
   • Polymyositis
   • Rheumatoid arthritis
   • Systemic lupus erythematosus
(3) Cancer excluding pre-cancer conditions or in-situ status
(4) Cardiovascular disorders limited to:
   • Cardiac arrhythmias
   • Coronary artery disease
   • Peripheral vascular disease
   • Chronic venous thromboembolic disorder
(5) Chronic heart failure
(6) Dementia
(7) Diabetes mellitus
(8) End-stage liver disease
(9) End-stage renal disease requiring dialysis
(10) Severe hematologic disorders limited to:
   • Aplastic anemia
   • Hemophilia
   • Immune thrombocytopenic purpura
   • Myelodysplastic syndrome
   • Sickle-cell disease (excluding sickle-cell trait)
(11) HIV/AIDS
(12) Chronic lung disorders limited to:
• Asthma
• Chronic bronchitis
• Emphysema
• Pulmonary fibrosis
• Pulmonary hypertension

(13) Chronic and disabling mental health conditions limited to:
• Bipolar disorders
• Major depressive disorders
• Paranoid disorder
• Schizophrenia
• Schizoaffective disorder

(14) Neurologic disorders limited to:
• Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
• Epilepsy
• Extensive paralysis (i.e., hemiplegia, quadriplegia, paraplegia, monoplegia)
• Huntington’s disease
• Multiple sclerosis
• Parkinson’s disease
• Polyneuropathy
• Spinal stenosis
• Stroke-related neurologic deficit

(15) Stroke

Medicare Advantage plans offering C-SNPs have the option to design their plan to cover a single chronic condition, or multiple chronic conditions (that are co-morbid or clinically linked) from the approved condition list.

**Eligibility for C-SNPs**

Before your client can enroll in a C-SNP, the plan must confirm his/her chronic condition(s) by contacting the beneficiary’s existing provider. Some plans use a Pre-enrollment Qualification Assessment Tool to verify this information; if the plan is unable to verify the chronic condition within the first month of C-SNP enrollment, then the beneficiary may be disenrolled after notification from the plan.

C-SNPs are required to re-verify eligibility for the plan at least once annually.

**References**

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Managed Care Manual, Chapter 16-B – Special Needs Plans
Chronic Condition Special Need Plans at Medicare.gov

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Special Needs Plans: Frequently Asked Questions

Kaiser Family Foundation, 2015, Medicare Advantage: Special Needs Plans by SNP Type

NCOA, Center for Benefits Access, Medicare Advantage: Types of Plans