

# Medicare Advantage Special Supplemental Benefits for Individuals with Chronic Illness

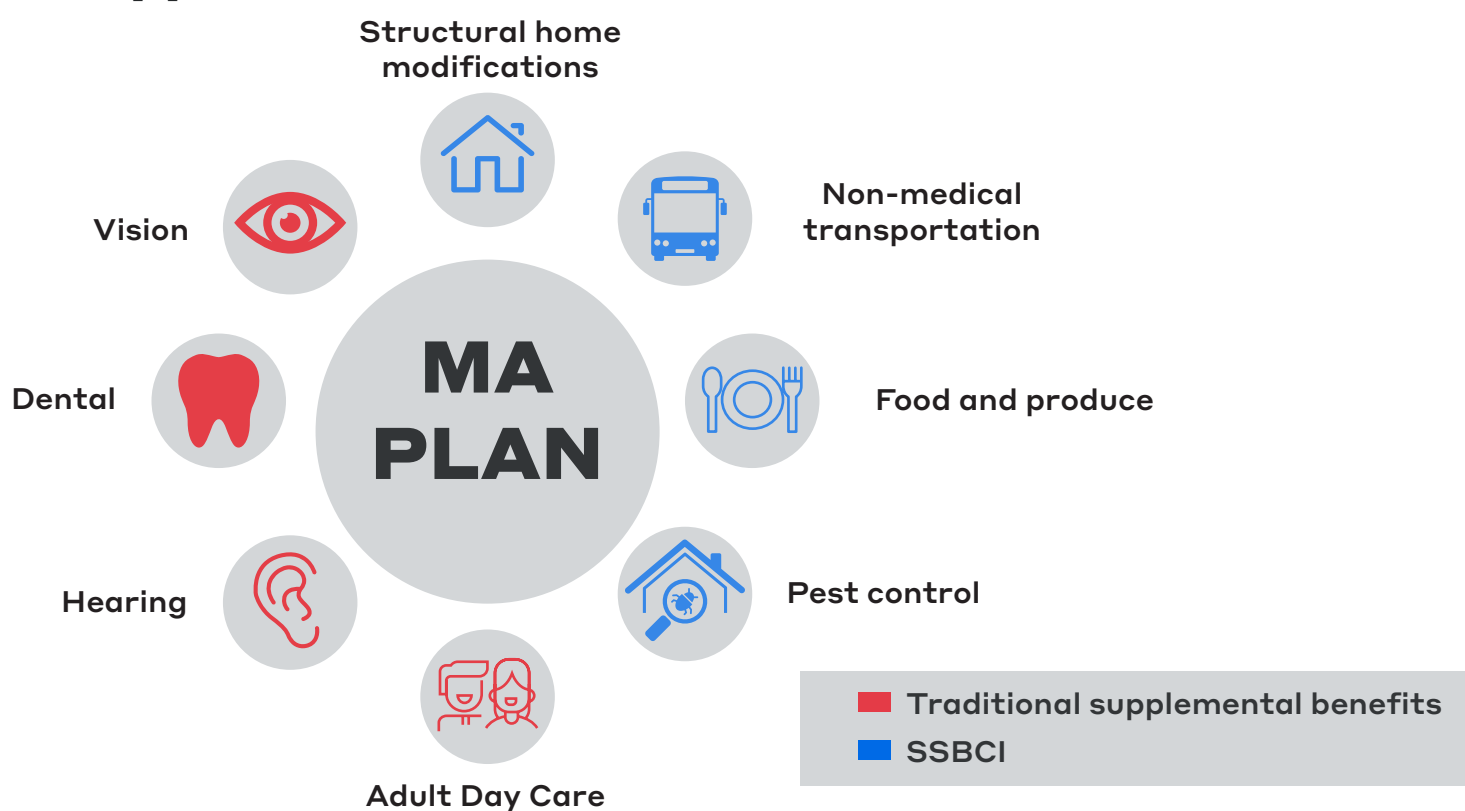
## What are special supplemental benefits for the chronically ill (SSBCI)?

- Medicare Advantage (MA) plans may provide SSBCI for individuals with multiple chronic conditions. MA plans define benefits and eligibility within federal guidelines.
- SSBCI address non-medical needs to help prevent costly emergency department visits, hospital admissions or readmissions, and post-acute care.

## How are they different from traditional supplemental benefits in Medicare Advantage?

- Traditional supplemental benefits must be offered to all plan enrollees, but SSBCI are only for individuals with multiple chronic conditions.
- SSBCI do not have to be health-related, but must be reasonably expected to improve or maintain health or help with daily activities.
- Plans do not have to charge an additional premium for SSBCI because they are covered by MA premiums or cost-sharing.

## What are examples of supplemental benefits v. SSBCI?



## How can policymakers further improve on this new flexibility?

- 1** Increase funding for State Health Insurance Assistance Programs

**Goal:** Beneficiaries better understand their options and can weigh trade-offs
- 2** Require MA plans to develop materials to educate providers about SSBCI

**Goal:** Providers can assess patient eligibility and refer patients to authorized suppliers
- 3** Direct CMS to set standards for reporting SSBCI enrollment, utilization, and outcomes.

**Goal:** Hold plans accountable for outcomes and contribute to evidence base
- 4** Direct CMS to publish reported MA plan information on SSBCI enrollment, utilization, and outcomes.

**Goal:** Results can inform future policy, and how plans and providers meet beneficiary needs