

HPMS E-Mail

Date: April 21, 2026

Subject: Status Update on the BRIDGE Demo and BALANCE Model in Part D for CY2027

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is extending the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge through December 31, 2027. CMS will delay implementation of the Medicare Part D portion of Better Approaches to Lifestyle and Nutrition for Comprehensive Health (BALANCE) Model for Calendar Year (CY) 2027 pending further evaluation and data collection. This approach provides additional time and data to inform the potential implementation of BALANCE in Part D.

The Medicare GLP-1 Bridge is a time-limited Section 402 demonstration that will begin on July 1, 2026, and now will extend through December 31, 2027. It will provide eligible Medicare Part D beneficiaries with access to certain GLP-1 medications outside of the Medicare Part D benefit coverage and payment flow. The Medicare GLP-1 Bridge is a critical element of CMS efforts to provide affordable access to GLP-1 drugs to Medicare beneficiaries. The continuation of the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge through 2027 will both provide Medicare beneficiaries access to GLP-1 drugs and enable collection of data that will allow plans to prepare for the potential implementation of BALANCE in Part D.

CMS received feedback from Part D Sponsors that an extension of the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge would offer a valuable opportunity to provide plans with additional data and facilitate a smoother transition to the potential implementation of BALANCE in Part D. As a result, Part D sponsors should not indicate participation in the BALANCE Model within the Health Plan Management System nor the Bid Pricing Tool for CY 2027. CMS will provide additional information regarding potential future updates to the BALANCE Model to plans, beneficiaries, and other interested parties.

The CMS Innovation Center will still accept applications for the BALANCE Model from State Medicaid Agencies through July 31, 2026. States may choose to start participating in BALANCE starting on a date of their choosing between May 1, 2026, and January 1, 2027. States that do not join the model by January 1, 2027, will not be allowed to participate in the model except at CMS discretion. More information on the BALANCE Model can be found on the [BALANCE Model Webpage](#). Please direct any technical questions related to the BALANCE Model at BALANCEModel@cms.hhs.gov.

Ahead of the July 1, 2026, launch of the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge, CMS is working with plans, providers, pharmacies, and manufacturers to support successful implementation and will release additional guidance and stakeholder materials in the coming weeks. More information on the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge can be found on the [Medicare GLP-1 Bridge webpage](#); please direct any technical questions related to the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge at glp1demo@cms.hhs.gov.