MEDICARE ADVANTAGE SUPPEMENTAL BENEFIT SERVICES CATEGORIES (SBSC) CODES

A Comparative Analysis Between the 2024 & 2025 Codes.







Background

Supplemental benefits are crucial for addressing non-traditional healthcare needs and promoting access to care. With CMS's increased focus on data transparency in supplemental benefit utilization in Medicare Advantage, Medicare Advantage Organizations must stay informed about changes to align strategies with regulatory expectations.

CMS updated the SBSC codes for 2025 [1], making it essential to understand these changes for compliance, payment accuracy, and mitigating organizational impacts. Staying informed and adapting strategies to align with CMS policy updates enables healthcare providers and health plans to strengthen operations and effectively support beneficiaries.

This comparative analysis provides insights for Medicare Advantage professionals managing Encounter Data and Risk Adjustment in various organizations, including provider groups, health plans, and technology vendors.

[1] <u>HPMS Memo Nov 12, 2024: "Submission of Supplemental Benefits Data on Medicare Advantage Encounter Data Records – Reminders,</u> <u>Other Supplemental Service Updates, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)"</u>





Summary of Key Findings

- Overall growth in SBSC codes.
- High degree of code continuity.
- Stability in core SDOH benefits.
- Expansion of Dental Care Services.
- Reduction in SNF Care Services Codes.







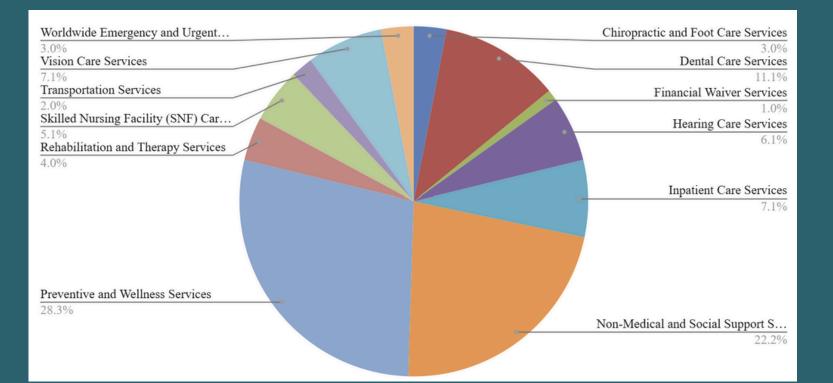




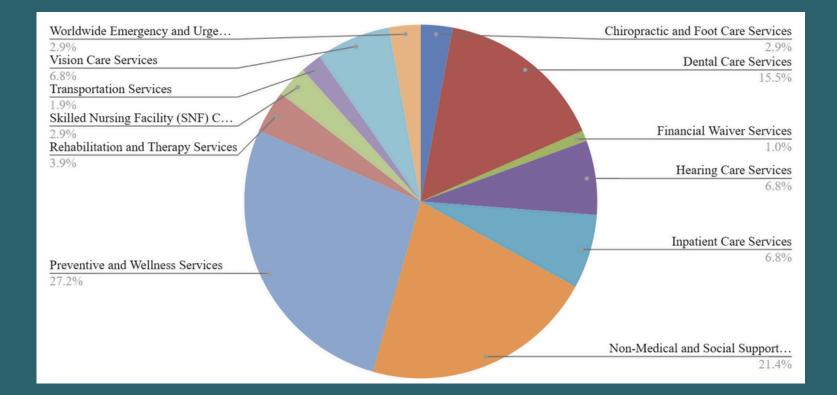
Common & Unique Codes



Percent - SBSC Codes By Category Themes



2024

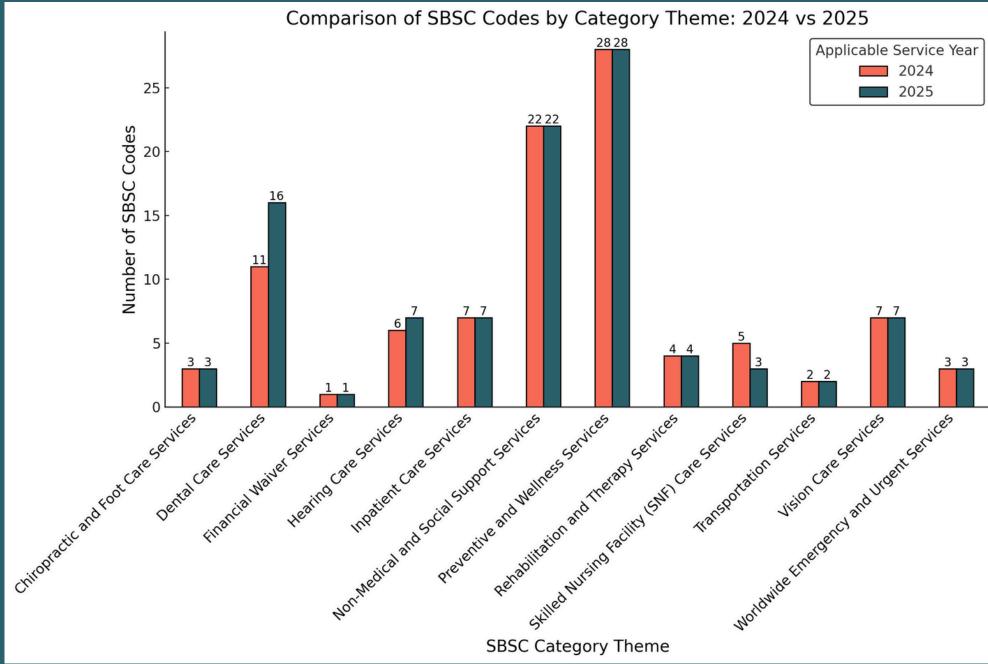








SBSC Codes By Category Themes



SBSC Category Theme





Some Key Findings

- Overall growth in SBSC codes: The total number of SBSC codes increased from 99 in 2024 to 103 in 2025, indicating a slight expansion in supplemental benefit offerings over the two years.
- High degree of code continuity: Of the 103 total SBSC codes in 2025, 81 codes were carried over from 2024, demonstrating a significant level of year-to-year consistency in supplemental benefit offerings, even as some codes were added, removed or revised.
- Stability in Core Benefits: Categories like "Non-Medical and Social Support Services" and "Preventive and Wellness Services" remain consistent between 2024 and 2025, with the highest counts. This reflects the sustained focus on addressing social determinants of health and preventive care in Medicare Advantage plans through supplemental benefits in the MA program.
- Expansion of Dental Care Services: The Dental Care Services category saw the largest increase, rising from 7 codes in 2024 to 11 codes in 2025, suggesting a growing expansion on dental benefits reporting.
- Reduction in Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Care Services: SNF Care Services experienced the biggest decrease, dropping from 5 codes in 2024 to just 3 codes in 2025, possibly indicating a tightening of certain SNFrelated supplemental benefits.





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