

## **HPMS E-Mail**

**Date:** March 24, 2025

**Subject:** Guidance and Timeline for Contract Year 2026 Contract Consolidations

This email is directed to Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) that are operating more than one Medicare Advantage (MA) or Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MA-PD) contract of the same product type under the same legal entity that wish to consolidate these contracts under a single contract number for contract year 2026.

MAOs that wish to consolidate contracts must submit a formal request to CMS on letterhead in PDF format along with the completed Service Area Consolidation template (attached). The request must identify the reason for consolidating contracts, how more than one contract of the same plan type was acquired (e.g., different service areas, acquisitions, etc.), and any pending applications under the contracts.

Requests must be submitted by 6:00 PM eastern time on April 8, 2025, to: <https://dmao.lmi.org>. Please select the “MA/SNP Applications” tab, select “Submit Question,” and enter “Contract Consolidation” in the “Issue” box. CMS will notify MAOs regarding the approval or denial of their request in advance of the bid submission deadline.