

40.1 – Overview of OTC Benefit

(Rev. 121, Issued: 04-22-16, Effective: 04-22-16, Implementation: 04-22-16)

MA plans may offer as a supplemental benefit health-related items and medications that are: available without a prescription, and are not covered by Medicare Part A, Part B or Part D. MA plans may never offer as a Part C supplemental benefit an OTC drug or item that also is covered under Part B or that is paid for under Part D for the plan's enrollees. OTC drugs and items that are eligible to be included in a Part C supplemental benefit must meet our criteria for qualification as a supplemental benefit in *section* 30 of this chapter. Detailed information about OTC drugs paid for under Part D may be found in *Chapters* 5 and 7 of the Medicare Prescription Benefit Manual, Pub 100-18.

Under Part C, *MA* plans may cover health-related OTC items such as adhesive or elastic bandages, and OTC drugs such as antihistamines and analgesics, that meet the criteria as eligible supplemental benefits under Part C, presented in *section* 30.1 above.

Medical supplies associated with the administration of insulin, (e.g., alcohol wipes and syringes) must be paid for under Part D and are not eligible to be covered as a supplemental benefit.

Since items and drugs that may be covered by the *MA* plan as supplemental benefits are for the enrollee, OTC items may be purchased for the enrollee only.