As a person who provides health or administrative services to a Medicare Part C or Part D enrollee, you are either an employee of a:

**Sponsor**
- Examples: CMS contractor, (MAC, RAC, etc.), Managed care provider, HMO, Medicare Advantage Provider, or other contracted payer

**First-tier Entity**
- Examples: Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM), hospital or health care facility, provider group, doctor office, clinical laboratory, customer service provider, claims processing and adjudication company, a company that handles enrollment, disenrollment, and membership functions, and contracted sales agent

**Down Stream Entity**
- Examples: Pharmacies, doctor office, firms providing agent/broker services, marketing firms, and call centers

**Related Entity**
- Examples: Entity with common ownership or control of a Sponsor, health promotion provider, or SilverSneakers®

To see how your defined, click on the box that most closely describes your role in healthcare.
Where Do I Fit In

First Tier, Downstream, or Related Entity’s are grouped together and referred to using the acronym FDR’s. Typically you are either employed by a government contractor called a Sponsor, or you are employed in association with an FDR.

As it applies to Part C

The Part C Plan Sponsor is a CMS Contractor. Part C Plan Sponsors may enter into contracts with FDRs. This stakeholder relationship shows examples of functions that relate to the Sponsor’s Medicare Part C contracts. First Tier and related entities of the Medicare Part C Plan Sponsor may contract with downstream entities to fulfill their contractual obligations to the Sponsor.

Examples of first tier entities may be independent practices, call centers, health services/hospital groups, fulfillment vendors, field marketing organizations, and credentialing organizations. If the first tier entity is an independent practice, then a provider could be a downstream entity. If the first tier entity is a health service/hospital group, then radiology, hospital, or mental health facilities may be the downstream entity. If the first tier entity is a field marketing organization, then agents may be the downstream entity. Downstream entities may contract with other downstream entities. Hospitals and mental health facilities may contract with providers.
Where Do I Fit In

First Tier, Downstream, or Related Entity’s are grouped together and referred to using the acronym FDR’s. Typically you are either employed by a government contractor called a Sponsor, or you are employed in association with an FDR.

As it applies to Part D

The Part D Plan Sponsor is a CMS Contractor. Part D Plan Sponsors may enter into contracts with FDRs. This stakeholder relationship shows examples of functions that relate to the Sponsor’s Medicare Part D contracts. First Tier and related entities of the Part D Plan Sponsor may contract with downstream entities to fulfill their contractual obligations to the Sponsor.

Examples of first tier entities include call centers, PBMs, and field marketing organizations. If the first tier entity is a PBM, then the pharmacy, marketing firm, quality assurance firm, and claims processing firm could be downstream entities. If the first tier entity is a field marketing organization, then agents could be a downstream entity.