



AP Photo/Jim Mone

This Oct. 16, 2012, file photo, shows a portion of the UnitedHealth Group Inc.'s campus in Minnetonka, Minn.

## Health insurers rally after government lays out Medicare Advantage raise

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shares of major health insurers jumped Tuesday after the federal government announced a better-than-expected 2026 payment increase for Medicare Advantage plans.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said Monday after markets closed that final rates are expected to increase more than 5% in 2026.

That wound up well above expectations, Leerink Partners analyst Whit Mayo said in a research note.

BTIG analyst David Larsen said separately that the final increase more than doubled what was initially proposed in January. He added that it likely accounts for higher care use that the program has seen recently.

Larsen also credited the new administration of President Donald Trump.

"The higher overall final rate is in line with our view that Republican administrations are gen-

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erally more (Medicare Advantage)-friendly," Larsen wrote. "While fraud, waste, and abuse are certainly a focus of the new administration, we view the final rate notice as a positive surprise."

The rate increase is expected to cost taxpayers an additional \$25 billion next year, CMS said. The Trump administration has vowed to trim the health department's \$1.7 trillion budget, although much of that money is spent on insuring the older, poor and disabled Americans through Medicare and the state- and federally

funded Medicaid program.

Medicare Advantage plans are privately-run versions of the government-funded Medicare program mostly for people who are 65 and older.

Shares of the two largest Medicare Advantage plan providers, UnitedHealth Group Inc. and Humana Inc., climbed more than 7% and 12%, respectively, Tuesday morning. Other insurance stocks like Elevance Health Inc. and Centene Corp. also jumped.

The health sector was among the biggest gainers in a broader market rebound early Tuesday.

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## Kid Scoop

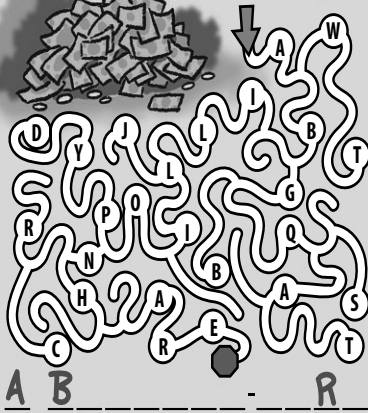
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### Bunny Buddies Funnies

Bunny Buddies are back, and what do they bring?  
Baskets of laughs for Easter and spring!  
Complete each puzzle to reveal something funny.  
Then share all the puzzles and jokes with somebunny!

#### What do you call a rich rabbit?

The letters on the  
correct path through  
Bucky Bunny's maze  
reveals the answer.



### Scrambled Riddles

Can you help Betty and Biff Bunny  
match the questions and answers?  
Do the math. Then draw a line from  
each riddle to its answer.



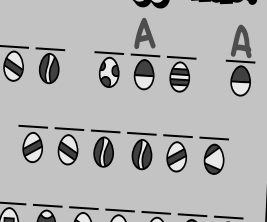
Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums to 20.



Use Bixby Bunny's  
secret code to reveal  
the punch line!

⊖ = A ⊖ = L  
⊖ = C ⊖ = N  
⊖ = E ⊖ = S  
⊖ = H ⊖ = T  
⊖ = I ⊖ = U  
⊖ = K ⊖ = W

#### Why did the Easter egg hide?



#### How many eggs can you put in an empty Easter basket?

O V N K E L B H E Y C R A J U D S H E T  
A Q E L T D E O R Y T I H N A C T F I O  
T E I C S V N W O L T G E F M L P I T X Y  
O \_ \_ B E \_ \_ \_  
\_ F \_ \_ \_ A \_ \_ \_  
\_ \_ \_ O \_ \_ \_ P \_ \_ \_

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

How do  
clowns  
like their  
eggs  
prepared?  
8 + 8 =

How do  
chickens  
leave the  
henhouse?  
12 + 2 =

What  
kind of  
books do  
bunnies like  
best?  
8 + 7 =

How many jelly  
beans can you find  
on this page?  
11 + 7 =

How does the  
Easter Bunny  
stay healthy?  
9 + 2 =

What do  
you get  
when chickens  
lay eggs on a  
hillside?  
9 + 8 =

Which  
are the  
funniest  
chickens on  
the farm?  
15 + 4 =

Where  
is the  
Eggpire  
State  
Building?  
7 + 6 =

17 = Egg rolls!  
19 = Comedi-hens!  
18 = An eggplant!  
13 = New York City!  
15 = Ones with hoppy endings!  
14 = Through the egg-sit!  
16 = Funny side up!  
11 = Lots of eggs-ercise!

### Extra! Extra! Fun Facts

Cut out a comic strip  
from the newspaper.  
Carefully remove the  
words from the word  
bubbles, and then paste  
the strip onto a sheet of  
paper. Write a new joke  
in the bubbles.

Standards Link: Reading  
Comprehension: Follow  
multiple-step directions.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Why don't  
dinosaurs dye  
Easter eggs?

Circle every other letter to  
discover the answer!

B T E P C L A F U M S V  
E A T R H N E M Y C A H  
R X E Z E Q G M G B S  
W T J I A N L C H T Y  
B E C \_ \_ \_ \_  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_



### Double Double Word Search

BASKET  
CLUES  
DRAW  
EASTER  
EGGS  
FARM  
JOKES  
LAUGHS  
MATH  
RABBIT  
REVEAL  
RICH  
SIDE  
STATE  
YOLK

Find the words by looking up,  
down, backwards, forwards,  
sideways and diagonally.

R J O K E S I D E G  
A E X L E H Y A I H  
B D V Q Z G M O C F  
B R J E B U G I L R  
I A L J A A R S U K  
T W M E S L I Y E F  
M A T H K O H V S A  
G G W A E A S T E R  
N E T A T S Y G L M

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical  
words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

#### Scrambled Eggs

With a buddy, look through today's newspaper  
for the letters that spell Easter Eggs. Cut them  
out. Take turns mixing up the letters and  
spelling a new word. A player gets a point for  
every letter used.

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level words correctly.

### Write On!

#### Easter Bunny Spotted

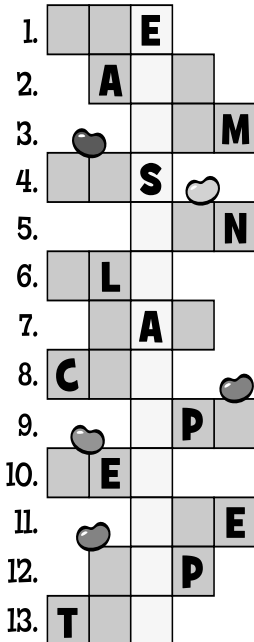
Pretend you are a newspaper reporter and  
you are writing an article about someone  
who saw the Easter Bunny. Be sure to tell  
who, what, when, where and why.

### Kid Scoop Together

#### Riddle Me This!

Work with somebunny in the family  
to use the clues to fill in the missing  
letters. The letters in the center  
vertical column reveal the answer  
to the riddle.

What do you  
need if your  
chocolate eggs  
disappear?



#### CLUES

1. A tasty baked dessert
2. To grow older
3. Something you chew
4. Fuel for a car
5. You can fry eggs in this
6. Sick, not well
7. A baseball player's hat
8. Metal food container
9. A gorilla is one kind
10. An animal in your home
11. Frozen water
12. How bunnies move
13. One more than nine

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Spell  
grade-level appropriate words correctly.

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