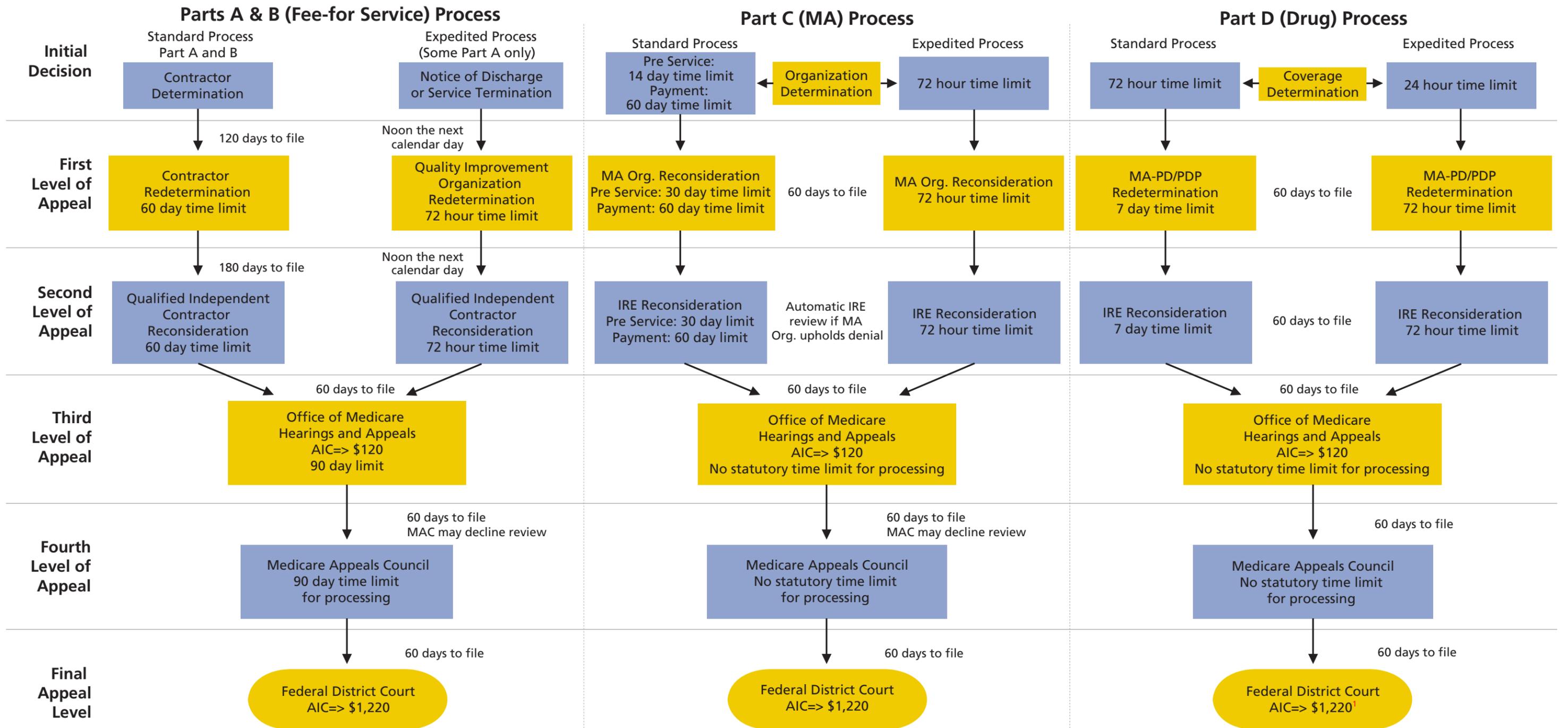


Comparison of the Parts A, B, C, and D Appeal Processes



AIC = Amount in controversy
 ALJ = Administrative Law Judge
 Contractor = Fiscal Intermediary, Carrier or Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC)
 IRE = Independent Review Entity

MA-PD = Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug
 MMA = Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement & Modernization Act of 2003
 PDP = Prescription Drug Plan
 QIC = Qualified Independent Contractor

¹Starting in 2005, the AIC requirement for an ALJ hearing and Federal District Court will be adjusted in accordance with the medical care component of the consumer price index.