



Date: September 14, 2010

To: All PACE Organizations, and Massachusetts Health Senior Care Options, Minnesota Senior Health Options, Minnesota Disability Health Options, and Wisconsin Partnership Program Plans

From: Thomas M. Kickham, Ph.D.
Director,
Information and Methods Group

SUBJECT: Medicare Health Outcomes Survey-Modified 2009 Electronic Data

On behalf of the entire Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) Team, I am pleased to provide notification that the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey-Modified (HOS-M) 2009 beneficiary level data are available for those PACE Organizations and applicable Special Needs Plans (SNPs) which continue to participate in the program. The HOS-M, which is an abbreviated version of the HOS, assesses the frailty of enrollees in PACE Organizations and targeted dual eligible SNPs to generate information for payment adjustment.

The 2009 HOS-M Electronic Data File and accompanying documentation are the third release of beneficiary level HOS-M data to individual plans. The HOS-M data are intended to support plan quality improvement activities. Each participating organization may obtain their data from the Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) by contacting the HOS Information and Technical Support telephone line at (888) 880-0077 or via e-mail at hos@azqio.sdps.org. Please be prepared to confirm your organization's designated recipient of these data, in addition to your plan's address, return telephone number, and CMS contract number(s). The data are available for distribution to PACE Organizations and SNPs at no cost, and will be provided on CD-ROM formatted as a CSV (comma-separated values) ASCII file.

If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact HSAG at the telephone number or e-mail address listed above. Should you have a policy or program concern related to the HOS-M, please contact Chris Haffer, PhD, CMS HOS Program Director, at (410) 786-8764 or email at chris.haffer@cms.hhs.gov. For a general overview of the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey program, visit CMS' HOS web address (www.cms.gov/hos).