



MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT AND C & D DATA GROUP

DATE: September 5, 2014

TO: Medicare Compliance Officer, Part C and D Sponsors

FROM: Amy K. Larrick, Acting Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: Second Plan Preview of 2015 Star Ratings Data

This memo is to inform Part C and D sponsors that they can preview their Star Ratings data in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) prior to display on the Medicare Plan Finder (MPF). The second plan preview will begin on September 8, 2014 after 5pm ET and will end on September 18, 2014 at 5pm ET. We have made measure data revisions and technical note updates as a result of issues found during the first plan preview. Additionally, each contract's preliminary Star Ratings for each measure, domain, summary score, and overall score will be displayed. Medicare beneficiaries will be able to view the final Star Ratings via the MPF on www.medicare.gov in October.

Instructions for Accessing Preview Data

- To access the Part C Star Ratings preview in HPMS, from the left navigation bar select: "Quality and Performance", then "Part C Performance Metrics", then "Part C Report Card Master Table" and then select 2015 for the report period.
- To access the Part D Star Ratings preview, from the left navigation bar select: "Quality and Performance", then "Part D Performance Metrics and Reports", then "Part D Report Card Master Table" and then select 2015 for the report period.
- The Technical Notes for Part C and D are available via the "Technical Notes" link found on each page in the Master Table modules.

Changes from 2014 Star Ratings and 1st plan preview:

- 1) As described on the August 6th User Group Call, changes made since last year's Star Ratings include increasing the weight of the improvement measure(s), adding a Special Needs Plan (SNP) Care Management measure, revising existing measures, and transitioning certain 2014 measures to the display page.
- 2) As announced on August 25th, the Part C and D Call Center - Foreign Language Interpreter and TTY Availability measures have been removed from the 2015 Star Ratings due to concerns over the accuracy of this year's data.
- 3) Data revisions were made to some contracts' data for the measures, "Members Choosing to Leave the Health/Drug Plan", and the Part C and D appeals timeliness measures.

- 4) Data for Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) have been suppressed, as these plans will not be rated in the 2015 Star Ratings.

During this second plan preview, CMS expects Part C and D sponsors to again closely review their posted data for each measure, as well as their preliminary Star Rating assignments. Sponsors should *immediately* alert CMS of any suspected data issues or errors in order to allow sufficient time to investigate and process any necessary data corrections. If issues are found during the plan preview, we will update the plan preview data in HPMS on a rolling basis. If you print the information from HPMS, please double check values online prior to submitting emails.

Please email comments or questions to the following mailbox:
PartCandDStarRatings@cms.hhs.gov .

Please include “Plan Preview #2” and a Contract ID in the subject line. Comments and questions will be addressed on a rolling basis and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on September 18, 2014. If your organization has multiple contracts with the same type of issue, please group those contracts in one email.

Please do not submit secure emails requiring CMS to login to access the questions as multiple staff triage your emails, and it is difficult to create and share login information. If you need to share personally identifying information (PII) with us, please contact us with an unsecure email to discuss a safe way to transfer the secure data.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensure the success of the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug programs.