

Announcements (4/11/2019 UGC)

- 1) OACT intends to post the advance Q&A file (questions only) the morning of the Thursday User Group Calls. The responses will be posted on the Friday after the call.
 - The questions for each week's call will be posted at <https://www.cms.gov> >> Medicare >> Medicare Advantage Rates and Statistics >> Actuarial Bid Questions, within the CY2020 Actuarial Bid Questions document.
- 2) CY2020 BPTs and bid instructions were released via HPMS on Friday, April 5th
 - The files were also posted on the CMS website, under: <https://www.cms.gov> > Medicare > Medicare Advantage Rates & Statistics (under the Health Plans header) > Bid Form & Instructions > Actuarial Bid Training
- 3) CY2020 Bid Training was released on Friday, April 5th
 - Can be viewed at <https://www.cms.gov> > Medicare > Medicare Advantage Rates & Statistics (under the Health Plans header) > Actuarial Bid Training – 2020
- 4) Release of FFS Trends and Narrative supporting 2020 growth rate
 - The Office of the Actuary has posted an exhibit highlighting key components of USPPC trends for period 2016-2020 on the CMS website at: CMS Home > Medicare > (Health Plans) Medicare Advantage - Rates & Statistics > FFS Trends
 - The Office of the Actuary's current estimate of Medicare unit cost increases by service category for 2018-2020 will be posted within the next few days on the same page
- 5) OACT plans to release the Gain Loss Requirement Tool and MA PBP to BPT Comparison Tool via the CMS website by early May.
- 6) Actuarial Certifications
 - Actuarial Certification Module expected to be released May 17th
 - Initial actuarial certification is due to CMS on June 7th
- 7) Release of 2020 OOPC Model
 - 2020 Out-of-Pocket Cost model will be released via the CMS website next week at: <https://www.cms.gov> > Medicare > Prescription Drug Coverage – General Information > OOPC Resources
- 8) Plan-specific TBC data is expected to be posted in HPMS next week.
- 9) Risk score data for CY2020 bidding including beneficiary-level files are expected to be released by early next week.

Announcements (4/18/2019 UGC)

- 1) 2020 Out-of-Pocket Cost model was released via the CMS website: <https://www.cms.gov> > Medicare > Prescription Drug Coverage – General Information > OOPC Resources
 - See the HPMS memo dated April 12th for more information
 - For technical questions about the OOPC model, please email OOPC@cms.hhs.gov
- 2) Release of plan-specific TBC data
 - Plan specific TBC data is expected to be posted in HPMS by the end of the week
 - The data will be posted at: HPMS Home > Quality and Performance > Performance Metrics > Costs > Part C Total Beneficiary Costs
 - If you are having issues accessing this data, please contact the HPMS Help Desk at 1-800-220-2028 or hpms@cms.hhs.gov
 - Any questions regarding the plan-specific TBC data can be sent to actuarial-bids@cms.hhs.gov
 - Any questions beyond the plan-specific TBC data (ex: questions on the memo or regarding OOPC/TBC policy) should be sent to <https://mabenefitsmailbox.lmi.org/>
- 3) Release of FFS Trends
 - The Office of the Actuary's current estimate of Medicare unit cost increases by service category for 2018-2020 has been posted on the CMS website at: CMS Home > Medicare > (Health Plans) Medicare Advantage - Rates & Statistics > FFS Trends
- 4) Release of risk score data for CY2020 bidding
 - Plan-level data has been posted in HPMS and beneficiary-level files have been sent to plan sponsors.
 - Please see the HPMS memos dated April 15th for more details about the beneficiary-level files and the technical notes included with the plan-level data posted on HPMS for details about the plan-level data.
 - 2020 model software is being developed and will be posted to the Medicare risk adjustment webpage in late April.

Announcements (4/25/19 UGC)

- 1) Plan specific TBC data was posted in HPMS on Tuesday, please see 4/23 HPMS email blast for more information
- 2) Bid upload functionality in HPMS available starting next Friday, May 3rd
 - We ask that each organization “test the upload process” by uploading a bid early
 - A bid can be uploaded repeatedly until the deadline, (11:59 PM PT) Monday, June 3rd, at which time all gates close
- 3) A HPMS memo was released last Thursday (4/18) that contains MA Benefits Bid Review and Operations Guidance regarding:
 - Cost Sharing and MOOP guidance
 - Part C Benefits PBP updates
 - TBC information

Announcements (5/2/2019 UGC)

- 1) Bid upload functionality in HPMS available starting tomorrow
 - We ask that each organization “test the upload process” by uploading a bid early
 - A bid can be uploaded repeatedly until the deadline, (11:59 PM PT) Monday, June 3rd, at which time all gates close

- 2) We expect to post the Industry Gain/Loss Requirement and PBP to BPT comparison tools by the end of this week via the CMS website under: www.cms.gov > Medicare > Medicare Advantage Rates & Statistics (under the Health Plans header) > Bid Form & Instructions > 2020
 - Similar to last year, the gain/loss tool allows plans to test their gain/loss margin against some of the aggregate-level margin requirements.
 - Key updates to the PBP to BPT Comparison Tool include the following changes:
 - The Mandatory Supplemental Benefits test for Outpatient Facility includes new PBP benefit category Additional Supervised Exercise Therapy (SET) for Symptomatic Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) Services.
 - The Mandatory Supplemental Benefits test for Other Defined Supplemental Benefits (PBP 14c) includes new PBP benefit categories Therapeutic Massage, Adult Day Health Services, Home-Based Palliative Care, In-Home Support Services, and Support for Caregivers of Enrollees.
 - The Mandatory Supplemental Benefits test for Professional recognizes that SNPs may now offer Annual Physical Exam benefits (14b).
 - New Mandatory Supplemental Benefits tests have been added for
 - Home Infusion Bundled Services (PBP 15) under “Part B Rx.”
 - Highly Integrated D-SNP Benefits (PBP 13g) under “Other Services.”
 - Users have the option of including the VBID PBP Access Database.
 - If the VBID PBP Access database file is selected for an applicable bid, column M in the PBP to BPT Comparison Tool will be unhidden and the mandatory supplemental benefits contained in the VBID PBP Access database file will be displayed in column M.
 - Reminder: The PBP Access Database must be named “PBP2020.MDB” and the VBID PBP Access Database must be named “VBID_PBP2020.MDB”

- 3) Update on re-release of Part D risk scores
 - There was a technical error in the Part D risk score run that resulted in incorrect risk scores being populated in the beneficiary-level files and in the contract-PBP level files posted on HPMS on April 15, 2019.
 - This issue impacts RAPS-based risk scores and ED-based risk scores for the community and LTI segments.
 - CMS will re-release the beneficiary level files and refresh the data posted on HPMS.
 - An HPMS email will be sent announcing the refresh of the data.

Announcements (5/9/2019 UGC)

- 1) Bid upload functionality in HPMS available
 - We ask that each organization “test the upload process” by uploading a bid early
 - A bid can be uploaded repeatedly until the deadline, (11:59 PM PT) Monday, June 3rd, at which time all gates close
- 2) Actuarial Certification expected to be available in HPMS starting Friday May 17th.
- 3) As mentioned on last week’s UGC, there was a technical error in the Part D risk score run that resulted in incorrect risk scores being populated in the beneficiary-level files and in the contract-PBP level files posted on HPMS on April 15, 2019.
 - We have corrected the issue and refreshed the Part D model risk score estimates in HPMS
 - In addition, CMS has pushed out an updated beneficiary-level Part D risk score file to all MA-PD plans, 1876 Cost Plans, PACE organizations, and PDPs.
 - Please see the HPMS email from last Friday, May 3rd for more information

Announcements (5/16/2019 UGC)

- 1) Bid upload functionality in HPMS available
 - We ask that each organization “test the upload process” by uploading a bid early
 - A bid can be uploaded repeatedly until the deadline, (11:59 PM PT) Monday, June 3rd, at which time all gates close
- 2) Actuarial Certification expected to be available in HPMS starting tomorrow.
- 3) CY 2020 OOPC model tool update now available
 - The model includes newly released generic drugs, those whose pricing was not available in 2018 PDE, to ensure Part D sponsors receive credit when including these drugs on their formularies.
 - The model is available on the OOPC Resources page as of May 14, 2019.
 - CMS will utilize the updated CY 2020 OOPC model for purposes of reviewing PDP meaningful difference and MA Total Beneficiary Cost (TBC) requirements.
 - CMS expects to post updated Total Beneficiary Cost (TBC) plan-specific data today. This update will include revised Impact of Changes in OOPC Model adjustments for MA-only plans that will be used for evaluating compliance with TBC. No changes are being made for MA-PD plans.
- 4) Late Breaking (after the User Group Call): On May 16 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued a final rule, Medicare Advantage and Part D Drug Pricing Final Rule (CMS-4180-F). The final rule can be downloaded from the Federal Register at:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/>.

Announcements (5/23/2019 UGC)

- 1) Bid upload functionality in HPMS available
 - We ask that each organization “test the upload process” by uploading a bid early
 - A bid can be uploaded repeatedly until the deadline, (11:59 PM PT) Monday, June 3rd, at which time all gates close
- 2) OACT will be conducting bid quality checks again this year. Plans can avoid being contacted with issues by carefully peer reviewing their bids. We intend to begin sending out emails to plans next week for bids already uploaded into HPMS to help ensure compliance prior to final bid submission.
- 3) On May 16 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued a final rule, Medicare Advantage and Part D Drug Pricing Final Rule (CMS-4180-F). The final rule can be downloaded from the Federal Register at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/05/23/2019-10521/modernizing-part-d-and-medicare-advantage-to-lower-drug-prices-and-reduce-out-of-pocket-expenses>.
 - Plan Sponsors are expected to bid according to the final rule
- 4) On Monday, May 20, CMS released an HPMS memo entitled Additional Guidance Regarding Part D bids. The attachment to this memo provides a series of questions and answers in response to the questions we have received pertaining to the April 5 guidance on the proposed HHS Anti-Kickback Statute.

Announcements (5/30/19 UGC)

- 1) A new version of the BPT add-in file has been released to update the CY 2020 bid software. There are only two validation updates being made with this release.
 - The first is to change a critical validation on WS7 cell F15 of the Part D Bid Pricing tool to a red circle validation. This allows plan sponsors to finalize the Part D BPT with a negative value in this cell (standardized Part D Bid amount).
 - The second update is to allow plans to finalize the MA BPT with a negative total non-benefit expense in the base period (MA Worksheet 1 cell K62).
 - Plan sponsors having issues finalizing BPTs due to these two issues should use the updated version of the BPT add-in file. All other plan sponsors that are submitting a CY 2020 BPT may use either the original or updated version of the BPT Add-In file. Both files will show as version 1, but the updated add-in file will have the updated validations.
 - See HPMS email blast from yesterday evening for more information

- 2) The bid submission deadline is 11:59 PM PT on Monday, June 3rd
 - Supporting documentation required with the initial bid submission must be submitted by this same deadline
 - Please note that the PD BPT cell F18 on Worksheet 7 for MTM payment must be populated with zero, not blank, at the time of bid submission for all PD bids

- 3) If you need assistance with actuarial issues between today's call and Monday's deadline, e-mail your question/issue to: actuarial-bids@cms.hhs.gov
 - We will do our best to respond as quickly as possible

- 4) Any issues related to bid upload should be directed to the HPMS Help Desk at:
1-800-220-2028 or hpms@cms.hhs.gov

- 5) The actuarial certification process will be similar to last year
 - The initial actuarial certification deadline will be Friday, June 7th. Please see the HPMS memo released yesterday for more details.