



MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT AND C & D DATA GROUP

DATE: August 9, 2017

TO: Medicare Compliance Officers, Part C and D Sponsors

FROM: Amy Larrick Chavez-Valdez, Director

SUBJECT: First Plan Preview of 2018 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 first plan preview will be held from August 9-18, 2017.

During this first plan preview, CMS expects Part C and D sponsors to closely review the methodology and their posted data for each measure. 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.

Star Ratings assignments will not be available for the first plan preview. A second plan preview will be conducted in September and will include any revisions made as a result of the first plan preview; in addition, CMS' 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. Data for Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) are displayed in HPMS for informational purposes only.

Instructions for Accessing Preview Data:

- To access the Part C and D Star Ratings preview in HPMS, select: "Quality and Performance," then "Performance Metrics," then "Star Ratings and Display Measures," then "Star Ratings," and then select 2018 for the report period.
- The Technical Notes for Part C and D are available via the "Technical Notes" link found within the Star Ratings module.

Changes for 2018 Star Ratings:

- As finalized in the 2018 Call Letter, changes made since last year's Star Ratings include the addition of a new process measure, the return of a process measure, the removal of an intermediate outcome measure, and several small measure specification updates.
- We will not implement enhancements to the Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) Price Accuracy measure as announced in the 2018 Call Letter as a measurement error with the enhanced specifications was found, where some claims may be falsely marked as inaccurate. We

will therefore maintain the current (2017) methodology for 2018 Star Ratings. In addition to reviewing their MPF Accuracy scores in HPMS during the first plan preview, contracts may access their individual MPF Price Accuracy reports in the Download Files section of the MPF Communications Web Portal.

- We will continue to apply the Categorical Adjustment Index and adjustment for Puerto Rico contracts.

Please email comments or questions to the following mailbox:

PartCandDStarRatings@cms.hhs.gov.

Please include “Plan Preview #1” and a Contract ID in the subject line. If you are emailing about multiple contracts with similar issues, please group your questions into a limited number of emails.

Do not submit emails requiring CMS to login to a website to access the questions. If you need to share personally identifying information (PII) with us, please contact us via email to discuss a safe way to transfer the data.

Comments and questions will be addressed on a rolling basis and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on August 18, 2017.

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