

Department of Health & Human Services

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201



Date: January 19, 2017

Subject: Machine Readable Data FAQs

Q: Should SHOP issuers with plans effective beginning in Plan Year 2016 and ending during Plan Year 2017 continue to update their 2016 machine readable data up to the plan expiration during Plan Year 2017?

A: Yes. Issuers with SHOP plans in states utilizing the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces (FFMs) should update their machine readable data for a particular plan year until all SHOP plans for that plan year are expired. For example, an issuer with SHOP that were effective December 2016 should continue to update their 2016 machine-readable data until November 30, 2017.

Q: Should issuers keep their machine readable URLs active for a particular plan year once all applicable issuers QHP plans for that plan year are expired?

A: CMS rules and policies do not require issuers utilizing the FFM to keep provider and drug machine-readable URLs active once all applicable plans have expired. However, issuers do need to preserve their provider and drug information in accordance with 45 CFR 156.705, applicable state and accreditation record retention requirements, as well as their own internal record retention policies.