

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



CENTER FOR MEDICARE

DATE: November 9, 2012

TO: All Part C Medicare Advantage Organizations

FROM: Cynthia Tudor, Ph.D., Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: Availability of Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) 2009-2011 Cohort 12 Performance Measurement Electronic Data

On behalf of the entire Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) Team, I am pleased to provide notification that the Medicare HOS 2009-2011 Cohort 12 Performance Measurement beneficiary level data are available for those organizations which continue to participate in the Medicare Advantage program.

The Medicare HOS 2009-2011 Cohort 12 Performance Measurement Electronic Data File and accompanying documentation are the eleventh release of beneficiary level HOS data to individual Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs). The HOS data are intended to support MAO quality improvement activities and initiatives. Since the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) also uses the data for MAO program oversight, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of General Counsel has advised that neither the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 nor the Privacy Act preclude release of HOS data to MAOs.

Due to the extremely sensitive nature of these data, CMS previously consulted with industry representatives to identify an efficient process for disseminating the data while ensuring their security and confidentiality. As a result, each participating MAO may obtain their data from the Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) by contacting the HOS Information and Technical Support via email at hos@azqio.sdps.org. Please provide your organization's designated recipient of the data, your plan's address, return telephone number, and CMS contract number(s). The data are available for distribution to MAOs at no cost and will be provided on CD-ROM formatted as a CSV (comma separated values file).

If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact HSAG through the HOS Information and Technical Support email address listed above or by telephone at (888) 800-0077. For policy or program concerns related to the HOS-M, please email hos@cms.hhs.gov. For a general overview of the Medicare HOS program, visit the CMS HOS website at www.cms.gov/hos. A full description of the HOS program that includes links to research data files, data user's guides, uses of the HOS data, and additional information may be found at www.HOSonline.org.