**Beneficiary Count Data Read Me**

This Read Me document provides a brief description of the data Bene\_Count\_Data\_v2014\_101523014*.*xlsx

**Purpose of File:** This file is provided for use by Part D benefit sponsors as part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) application process. A MA-PD, Cost Plan or stand-alone PDP is required to submit an application to offer Part D benefits. The general application requirements are outlined under 42 CFR §423.502. **This file is not intended for any other purpose or analytical use.**

This file should be used by applicants to prepare their pharmacy networks to ensure adequate/convenient access to Retail Pharmacies and Home Infusion Pharmacies as required in the pharmacy access section of the application. The requirement for access to Part D Drugs is provided in 42 CFR §423.120. Definitions for Urban, Suburban and Rural are provided in 42 CFR §423.100. Applicant organizations are responsible to ensure that the definitions for Urban, Suburban, and Rural used in their analyses conform to regulatory definitions.

**Description of File:** One file is provided in MS Excel format (Bene\_Count\_Data\_v2014\_101523014*.*xlsx) with two worksheets.

The worksheet, Beneficiary Count by ZIP contains a listing of the number beneficiaries by ZIP code for the U.S. and five U.S. territories. Data provided shows 53,361,202 eligible beneficiaries. Specifically, the variables include:

1. **FIPS State**
2. **State Abbr (abbreviation)**
3. **PDP Region #**
4. **MA Region #**
5. **ZIP 5 Code (5 Digit ZIP Code)**
6. **Part D Eligible (Number of eligible Medicare beneficiaries)**
7. **FIPS County (name)**
8. **FIPS County Code**

**Record count**: 50,731

**Data Source:** The ZIP code and Medicare beneficiary count (Variables E-F) were extracted from the Medicare Beneficiary Database on October 15, 2014.

The worksheet, *State Abbrevs & Region Codes*, contains a listing of the States and Territories and corresponding PDP and MA region numbers, as applicable.

1. **State/Terriotory Name**
2. **State/Territory Abbreviation**
3. **PDP Region #**
4. **MA Region #**

**Record count**: 56

**Data Source:** HPMS State and Region crosswalk

**Note:** U.S. territories are not assigned to a Medicare Advantage Region and, as such, the MA Region Group variable for ZIP codes located in the territories is left blank. All U.S. territories are assigned to their specific PDP Region Group.

If you have questions regarding this data file please contact Arianne Spaccarelli within the CMS Medicare Drug Benefit and C&D Data Group, Division of Benefit Purchasing & Monitoring ([arianne.spaccarelli@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:arianne.spaccarelli@cms.hhs.gov) ) or by phone 410-786-5715.