

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



CENTER FOR MEDICARE

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Medical Savings Account Organizations, Part C Demonstrations, and Private-Fee-For-Service Plans

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

SUBJECT: Suspension of the Part C Benefit Utilization Measure

DATE: December 9, 2011

CMS is pleased to announce that the collection of the Benefit Utilization (BU) measure, as outlined in the Part C Reporting Requirements, is suspended for 2011. Instead, 2011 data will be collected and validated through the Bid Pricing Tool (BPT) (i.e., 2011 BU data will be collected in the 2013 BPT). The 2013 BPT will be updated to collect any BU data elements that were required in the Part C reporting requirements that are not currently included in the BPT. Please be advised that this suspension only refers to the Part C Benefit Utilization measure. The reporting and data validation of other Part C measures and Part D sections will go on as scheduled.

As a result of this decision MA organizations should be aware that:

- 2011 BU data should not be entered into the Plan Reporting Module (PRM).
- 2010 BU reporting will not be included in the data validation that is scheduled to occur early next year. Plans may still be asked questions concerning the validity and reliability of these data.

CMS is continually evaluating our data collection processes and is actively looking for ways to implement efficiencies without impacting the integrity of the data collection effort. We believe this is a significant process change that will benefit MA organizations yet still provide CMS with this important program data. If you have any questions, please submit them to the following mailbox: Parteplanreporting@cms.hhs.gov