

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
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DATE: July 2, 2019

TO: All Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, Cost, PACE, and Demonstration Organizations Systems Staff

FROM: Jennifer R. Shapiro, Acting Director, Medicare Plan Payment Group
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SUBJECT: Advance Announcement of the August 2019 Software Release

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) implements software changes to the enrollment and payment systems that support Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) programs. This letter provides high level advance information regarding the planned systems changes scheduled for the August 2019 software release. More details concerning these changes will be provided closer to the release date.

The August 2019 software release will include the following:

1. [Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly \(PACE\) Risk Factor Changes for 2020](#)
2. [Enhancements to the Plan Submitted Rollovers \(POVERs\) Utility on the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug \(MARx\) User Interface \(UI\)](#)

Plans are encouraged to contact the MAPD Help Desk for any issues encountered during the systems update process. Please direct any questions or concerns to the MAPD Help Desk at 1-800-927-8069 or e-mail at mapdhelp@cms.hhs.gov.

1. Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Risk Factor Changes for 2020

As finalized in the 2020 Rate Announcement, CMS will calculate risk scores for PACE organizations using the 2017 CMS-HCC model and the 2019 End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) dialysis and functioning graft model. In addition, PACE risk scores will be calculated using diagnoses from the Risk Adjustment Processing System (RAPS), Fee-for-Service (FFS) claims and encounter data records. Beginning in 2020, new PACE-specific factor type codes will be used for enrollees in community and transplant status. These new Risk Adjustment Factor Type Codes will be in field 46 of the Monthly Membership Report (MMR), and in the MARx User Interface (UI).

These changes will be effective beginning with the January 2020 payment.

2. Enhancements to the Plan Submitted Rollovers (POVERs) Utility on the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MARx) User Interface (UI)

The MARx system validates beneficiary requests; if the requests are valid, beneficiaries are enrolled or disenrolled in the Medicare Advantage Plans and/or Prescription Drug Plans offered by Medicare approved contractors (“Plans”). CMS has policies and practices in place that support beneficiary enrollment changes. Under certain circumstances, Plans must submit special enrollment transactions to move a subset of their beneficiaries into a different Plan.

These special enrollments are often referred to as ‘Plan Submitted Rollovers,’ or ‘POVERs.’ Plans submit POVER files through the Special Batch File process. This process allows CMS to review and approve special files within the MARx UI.

The August 2019 release enhancements focus on making the POVER Special Batch Process more efficient:

- The header date and application date fields are being removed from the Special Batch Approval Request (M316) screen.
- When a Plan creates a POVER file request on the Special Batch Approval Request (M316) screen, the default selections will be enrollment transaction ‘61’ and election type code ‘C.’
- When a Plan creates a POVER file request, the request will now be set automatically to ‘HOLD’ and the Plan will be able to submit the POVER file without waiting for CMS to approve the request.
 - The transaction file submitter ID no longer must match the special file requester ID.
 - CMS will be notified by email that a special file has passed all validation edits and is ready for approval.

- If the MARx system edits reject a POVER file, the Batch Completion Status Summary (BCSS) will inform the file submitter that the same request ID can be used to resubmit the file once all the reasons for rejection are resolved.
 - Additionally, file submitters will be able to view system generated user messages on the Welcome (M101) screen and User Messages (M102) screen.