

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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Medicare Plan Payment Group
Enterprise Systems Solutions Group

DATE: January 21, 2016

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

FROM: Cheri Rice /s/
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SUBJECT: Advance Announcement of the May 2016 Software Release

CMS continues to implement software improvements to the enrollment and payment systems that support Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug (MAPD) programs. This letter provides information regarding the planned release of systems changes scheduled for May 2016. This release focuses on improving the efficiency of CMS systems as well as Plan processing.

The May 2016 Release changes are as follows and may require Plan action:

In February 2016, CMS intends to provide the detailed information that Plans will require for implementation in May 2016.

1. Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug System (MARx) Reset Changes

The Number of Uncovered Months (NUNCMO) reset "R" indicator has specific requirements as to when it can be submitted for a beneficiary. CMS has seen some instances where Plans are submitting the NUNCMO reset "R" indicator for beneficiaries that do not meet the specific requirements. This erroneous submission of an "R" causes the MARx database to have incorrect data which impacts the beneficiary's Late Enrollment Penalty (LEP) amount. It also has a negative impact on future NUNCMO transactions for the beneficiary. As a result of these erroneous submissions, CMS has decided to disable Plans from submitting the "R" reset and the "U" undo indicators. These indicators will be disabled for both batch and UI transactions. If a Plan should attempt to submit an "R" or "U", MARx will send the user a Transaction Reply Code (TRC) 126 "Enrollment/Change Rejected; Invalid Cred Covrg Flag". The Plan Communication User Guide will be modified to incorporate the description change of TRC 126.

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.