



DATE: April 25, 2012

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

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SUBJECT: Advance Announcement of the August 2012 Software Release

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to implement software improvements to the enrollment and payment systems that support Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug (MAPD) programs. This letter provides advanced information regarding the planned release of systems changes scheduled for August 2012. The changes for this release are listed below and may require Plan action. At the end of May, CMS will provide the detailed information that Plans require for implementation.

Addition of the Disenrollment Reason Code (DRC) Field to the Daily Transaction Reply Report (DTRR)

The Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MARx) system will include an additional field on the Daily Transaction Reply Report (DTRR) for populating the Disenrollment Reason Code (DRC). This additional field will populate with the DRC anytime a disenrollment transaction is processed by MARx, including a transaction submitted via batch submission or the User Interface (UI) Update. The additional field will also populate with the DRC for system-generated and auto-disenrollment transactions.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) To Appear on the MARx UI Snapshot Screen (M203)

Included in the November 2011 release, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) introduced a new value of “3” in the DTRR, but no indicator or value populated the MARx UI.

After the August 2012 release, the HCBS indicator appears on the MARx UI **Beneficiary Snapshot (M203)** screen. Users can view the HCBS checkbox under the ‘**Status Flags**’ section of the M203 screen.

Implementation of Specific Changes to MAPD Systems to Accommodate the Financial Alignment Demonstrations

In January 2013, newly integrated capitated plans become available for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees (full-benefit dual eligible beneficiaries) under the new Financial Alignment demonstration in select states. The demonstration plans provide the full array of Medicare and Medicaid services to beneficiaries enrolled in them. Separately, Plans will receive additional instructions on enrollment and payment operational and systems requirements impacting demonstration plans. While the demonstration is still developing, changes that impact non-demonstration Medicare Part C and D Plans in the August release include new data elements, such as transaction reply codes. Please see the 2013 Advance Notice for additional details about the Financial Alignment Demonstration.

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 email at mapdhelp@cms.hhs.gov.