

CENTER FOR MEDICARE

DATE: September 21, 2010

TO: Medicare Advantage Organizations
Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug Organizations
Cost-Based Contractors
Prescription Drug Plan Sponsors
Employer/Union-Sponsored Group Health Plans

FROM: Danielle Moon, J.D., M.P.A., Director
Medicare Drug & Health Plan Contract Administration Group

RE: Calendar Year 2011 Plan Ratings Information

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide plan sponsors with guidance on downloading their 2011 plan rating information from the Health Plan Management System (HPMS). As specified in section 30.16 of the Medicare Marketing Guidelines (Plan Ratings Information from www.medicare.gov), plan sponsors must provide information about their plan or plans' ratings information to current and prospective beneficiaries by including it in their enrollment kits, referring beneficiaries to www.medicare.gov and making it available upon request.

This year, in an effort to disclose an overall plan rating to Medicare beneficiaries, CMS has combined the plan ratings template for Medicare health and prescription drug plans. The 2011 plan performance rating template will be available from the Quality Performance/HPMS Part D Performance Metrics Module in October. Plan sponsors will need to select their contract number from the list and click on the "Create PDF" link to generate their customized contract-specific template in the PDF format, which they may not alter. Once the template is downloaded, plan sponsors may include the plan logo and material ID on the templates. The plan ratings template must be submitted as File & Use under category code 9004.

As a reminder, plan performance ratings for the new contract year will not be available until October 28, 2010. Plan sponsors will need to use the prior year's plan rating information until such time as the plan rating information for the following contract year is made available. Once the current year's plan performance information is available, plan sponsors must update the enrollment kit to ensure the most up-to-date plan performance ratings information is provided to current and prospective enrollees. New plans will not be required to provide plan ratings information until the next contract year.

Please contact your Account Manager or Regional Office Marketing Reviewer if you have any further questions.