

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
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CENTER FOR MEDICARE

TO: All Part D Sponsors

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

SUBJECT: 1st Plan Preview of CY2011 Part D Plan Ratings Data

DATE: August 10, 2010

CMS will again release Parts C and D Plan Ratings during this fall's CY2011 open enrollment period. Medicare beneficiaries will be able to view these plan ratings via the Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) on www.medicare.gov. This memo is to inform Part D sponsors that you can preview your plan ratings data in HPMS prior to display on the MPF beginning on August 11, 2010. Note that star rating assignments have not been made at this point.

To access the Plan Ratings Preview in HPMS, from the left navigation bar select: "Quality and Performance", then "Part D Performance Metrics and Reports" and then "Part D Report Card Master Table". Technical notes are available via the "Technical Notes" link found on the "Summary" tab of the Master Table.

Two changes made to the Part D Plan Ratings this fall:

1. As described in the July 16, 2010 HPMS memo, updates have been made to the specifications for the two patient safety ratings, the High Risk Medication (HRM) measure and the Diabetes Treatment (DT) measure. The data posted in HPMS for this plan preview reflect the updated NDC lists.
2. In the Drug Pricing domain, a combined measure of price stability and accuracy will replace the two previously separate measures. Other changes to the methodology, such as evaluating price stability using prescription drug event (PDE) data, and measuring the magnitude of differences between Plan Finder and PDE costs, are detailed in a separate methodology paper posted in HPMS.

During this first Part D plan preview, CMS expects Sponsors to closely review the methodology and their posted data for each measure. Sponsors should immediately alert CMS of any suspected data issues or errors in order to allow sufficient time to investigate and process any necessary data corrections. Please email any comments or questions to PartDMetrics@cms.hhs.gov and include "Part D Plan Preview #1" and a Contract ID in the subject line. Comments and questions will be addressed on a rolling basis and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on August 24, 2010.

CMS expects to conduct a second Part D plan preview in September that will display the data, including any revisions made as a result of the first plan preview, as well as include data for three Part D CAHPS measures. Based on this complete dataset, CMS' preliminary star ratings for each measure, domain, and the Part D summary score will be displayed for each contract to view. A Part C plan preview period is also scheduled for September.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensure the success of the Medicare prescription drug program.