# MCBS COVID-19 Rapid Response Supplement

The Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) is an ongoing survey of a representative national sample of the Medicare population, including the population of beneficiaries aged 65 and over and beneficiaries aged 64 and below with eligible disabilities. With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S., the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is uniquely positioned to quickly collect vital information on how the pandemic is impacting the Medicare population. MCBS beneficiaries are most at risk for underlying conditions that may lead to more severe COVID-19 complications.

The Office of Enterprise Data and Analytics (OEDA) at CMS is conducting a rapid response telephone survey with MCBS respondents who were eligible and enrolled in Medicare in 2019 through the assistance of NORC. This data collection is a supplement to the annual data collection for the MCBS and will help CMS to better understand Medicare beneficiaries’ knowledge of the outbreak and potential program changes in response to the pandemic. The questionnaire content will explore the impact of COVID-19 on topics such as access to telemedicine during the pandemic; foregone health care; COVID-19 exposure, symptoms, testing, and treatment; knowledge of COVID-19 and prevention activities; and effects of COVID-19 on mental, physical, economic, and social well-being.

The MCBS COVID-19 Rapid Response Supplement was launched in Summer 2020. The resulting data from the supplemental survey will be merged with data on the beneficiaries collected during prior interviews, such as demographics and health status information. CMS will use these data to conduct preliminary analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the Medicare population. A follow-up survey is planned with the same beneficiaries in Fall 2020 to measure change over the course of the pandemic.