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DATE: September 8, 2026

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Prescription Drug Plans, and Section 1876 Cost Plans

FROM: Vanessa S. Duran
Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: Second Plan Preview of 2027 Part C and D Star Ratings Data

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform Part C and D sponsors that they can preview their Star Ratings data in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) prior to display on the Medicare Plan Finder (MPF). The second plan preview will be available starting September 9, 2026 and will end on September 15, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific time. We have made measure data revisions following the first plan preview. The Technical Notes were also updated to include information that is available during the second plan preview, such as measure-level cut points. Additionally, each contract's preliminary Star Ratings will be displayed, including any applicable scaled reductions for the Part C appeals measures and disaster adjustments. During the first plan preview a coding issue was found where the Independent Review Entity (IRE) identified a small set of appeals as processed timely when they should have been identified as late in the data provided for Star Ratings. We have updated the data to correct this issue and to include some cases that were missing from the original data provided.

For the second plan preview, we have added files in HPMS with data for sample Part C and D measures for contracts to check the CMS programming. Sample data are provided for one of each type of measure needed to replicate cut points; the same cut point programming is used for all other measures as the sample measures. The 2027 Star Ratings are scheduled to be released via the MPF on Medicare.gov on or about October 8, 2026.

During this second plan preview, CMS expects Part C and D sponsors to again closely review their posted data for each measure, as well as their preliminary Star Rating assignments. Sponsors should *immediately* alert CMS of any suspected data issues or errors during the plan preview in order to allow sufficient time to investigate and process any necessary data corrections. If you print or save the data displayed on the HPMS Star Rating preview pages, please double check the current values online prior to submitting emails in case any updates have been made. Prior to the release of data on the MPF, all data in HPMS will be updated with the final 2027 Star Ratings. Finalized Star Ratings will be available for all contracts, including withdrawn and terminated contracts, in HPMS in early October. Data shared during the plan previews prior to the release of the final Star Ratings in October are preliminary and subject to change. Thus, plans and related entities should not release information on 2027 Star Ratings

through any means until the ratings have been released publicly and are live on the Medicare Plan Finder. As a reminder, we are unable to make changes to the 2027 Star Ratings methodology that has previously been codified at §§ 422.160 - 422.166 and 423.180 - 423.186.

Instructions for Accessing Preview Data:

- To access the Part C and D Star Ratings preview in HPMS, select: “Quality and Performance,” then “Performance Metrics,” then “Reports,” then “Star Ratings and Display Measures,” then “Star Ratings,” and then select 2027 for the report period.
- The draft 2027 Part C & D Star Ratings Technical Notes are available by selecting the “Download” link, then “Technical Notes” within the Star Ratings module.

Please email comments or questions to the following mailbox:

PartCandDStarRatings@cms.hhs.gov. Also copy the CallCenterMonitoring@cms.hhs.gov mailbox for call center monitoring questions. Please include “Plan Preview #2” and a Contract ID in the subject line, and send a separate email for each data source (e.g., HEDIS issues should be grouped into one email, and CAHPS issues should be grouped into a separate email). If you are emailing about multiple contracts with similar issues, please group your questions into a limited number of emails. In this case, include “Plan Preview #2” and the organization name in the subject line, and list the affected Contract IDs in the actual email.

Do not submit emails requiring CMS to log in to a website to access the questions. If you need to share personally identifiable information (PII) with us, please contact us via regular email to discuss a safe way to transfer the data.

Comments and questions must be received no later than **11:59 p.m. Pacific time on September 15, 2026** and will be addressed on a rolling basis.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensure the success of the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug programs.