



CENTER FOR MEDICARE

DATE: July 21, 2026

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations

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SUBJECT: Availability of Updated 2026 Star Ratings Data on Medicare Plan Finder and cms.gov

As noted in the June 17, 2026 HPMS memo titled “Update to 2027 Quality Bonus Payment Determinations,” CMS voluntarily recalculated the Quality Bonus Payment (QBP) ratings using only data collected under 42 U.S.C. 1395w-22(e) as of November 1, 2003, specifically Part C measures using Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS), Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS), and Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) data. Medicare Advantage (MA) contracts that had an increase in their 2027 QBP ratings with an impact on their benchmark or rebate amount had a time-limited opportunity to resubmit their Contract Year (CY) 2027 bids, including bid pricing tools (BPTs), plan benefit packages (PBPs), and formularies. In our recalculation, the QBP ratings stayed the same for 61 percent of contracts, increased for 9 percent of contracts, and decreased for 30 percent of contracts.

CMS will update the overall rating displayed in HPMS and Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) to match the recalculated 2027 QBP rating on or about July 22, 2026 for only those contracts that had an increase in their QBP rating.¹

Once MPF is refreshed, impacted MA organizations can update their communication materials to show the recalculated overall ratings. The updated 2026 Medicare Star Ratings marketing templates are also available in HPMS. Contracts that receive 5 stars overall in the updated ratings can market their continuous enrollment special election period (SEP). Additional guidance on the use of Star Ratings in marketing materials may be found at 42 CFR Parts 422 and 423 Subpart V. In addition, marketing materials that were previously submitted to and approved (or accepted) by CMS do not need to be resubmitted if the only revision is updating the Star Ratings in accordance with the changes outlined in this memo.

¹ If an impacted contract decided not to resubmit their CY 2027 bid, their overall rating will not be updated in HPMS, on Medicare Plan Finder, or on www.cms.gov.

The updated 2026 Star Ratings Data Tables will also be available at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/health-drug-plans/part-c-d-performance-data> and CY 2026 Landscape files at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coverage/prescription-drug-coverage> on or about July 22, 2026. CMS will only update the overall rating for contracts that had an increase in their QBP rating.¹

The recalculation only impacts the rating that is used for payment purposes; thus, we are not making any changes to the measure-level, domain, and Part C and D summary ratings on MPF or www.cms.gov. We note that CMS will continue to make this information available to fulfill statutory requirements under sections 1851(d) and 1860D-1(c) of the Social Security Act to disseminate quality and performance information to beneficiaries, enabling them to make informed plan choices when comparing health and drug plans. CMS will continue to use the existing measure-level, domain, and Part C and D summary ratings for important non-payment programmatic purposes such as MPF display, including low-performing icons; past performance evaluations for Part C and Part D applications; and contract terminations.

If you have any questions, please contact PartCandDStarRatings@cms.hhs.gov.