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DATE: June 24, 2026

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

FROM: Vanessa S. Duran
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SUBJECT: Disasters that Qualify for the Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances for the 2027 Part C and D Star Ratings

Under the 25 percent rules at §§ 422.166(i)(2)–(6) and 423.186(i)(2)–(4), Part C and D contracts with at least 25 percent of enrollees in a FEMA-designated Individual Assistance area in 2025 will receive the higher of their measure-level rating from the current and prior Star Ratings years for purposes of calculating the 2027 Star Ratings (thus, for 2027 Star Ratings, affected contracts will receive the higher of their measure-level ratings from the 2026 rating or 2027 rating for the applicable measures), subject to limited exceptions.

The *Announcement of Calendar Year (CY) 2027 Medicare Advantage (MA) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies* (“2027 Rate Announcement”) published April 6, 2026 listed in Table VI-2 the emergency areas affected by emergency declarations first issued in 2025, as defined in section 1135 of the Act, and the exercise of the Secretary’s authority under section 1135 of the Act. Table VI-3 listed the states and territories with Individual Assistance designations from the FEMA major disaster declarations.

On April 7, 2026, FEMA declared Washington state’s December 2025 *Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides* a disaster. While a Waiver or Modification of Requirements Under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act had been declared for this disaster in December 23, 2025, there was no qualifying FEMA declaration associated with this disaster when the 2027 Rate Announcement was published. The FEMA declaration with corresponding 1135 waiver now qualifies the Individual Assistance counties in Washington state’s 2025 *Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides* for 2027 Star Ratings adjustments. As such, Tables VI-2 and VI-3 in the 2027 Rate Announcement are revised as follows:

Table VI-2. List of Section 1135 Waivers Issued in Relation to the FEMA Major Disaster Declarations

Section 1135 Waiver Date Issued	Waiver or Modification of Requirements Under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act	FEMA Incident Type	Affected State	Incident Start Date
January 10, 2025	Wildfires	Wildfires and Straight-line Winds	California	January 7, 2025
July 8, 2025	Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding	Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding	Texas	July 2, 2025
<i>December 23, 2025</i>	<i>Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding</i>	<i>Washington Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides</i>	<i>Washington</i>	<i>December 5, 2025</i>

Table VI-3. Individual Assistance Counties and County-Equivalents in FEMA Major Disaster Declared States/Territories

FEMA Declaration	State	FEMA Individual Assistance Counties or County-Equivalents
DR-4856-CA	California	Los Angeles
DR-4879-TX	Texas	Burnet, Guadalupe, Kerr, Kimble, McCulloch, Menard, San Saba, Tom Green, Travis, Williamson
<i>DR-4906-WA</i>	<i>Washington</i>	<i>Chehalis Indian Reservation, Chelan, Grays Harbor, King, Lewis, Lummi Indian Reservation, Muckleshoot Indian Reservation, Nisqually Indian Reservation, Nooksack Indian Reservation, Pacific, Pierce, Puyallup Indian Reservation, Quinault Indian Reservation, Samish (TDSA), Sauk-Suiattle Indian Reservation, Shoalwater Bay Reservation, Skagit, Snohomish, Snoqualmie Indian Reservation, Squaxin Island Indian Reservation, Stillaguamish Indian Reservation, Swinomish Indian Reservation, Thurston, Tulalip Indian Reservation, Upper Skagit Indian Reservation, Whatcom</i>