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TO: All Current and Prospective Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, Section 1876 Cost, and PACE Organizations

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SUBJECT: New SSA State/County Codes for the Connecticut Planning Regions Effective Contract Year (CY) 2028

On June 6, 2022, the Census Bureau recognized Connecticut's nine (9) planning regions as county equivalents, thereby replacing the state's eight (8) historical counties. While the Census Bureau adopted these changes several years ago, CMS has continued using Connecticut's legacy SSA state/county codes for a number of operational processes and systems. **Table 1** presents the legacy FIPS and SSA state/county codes that represent Connecticut's historical county structure.

Table 1

Connecticut Codes Before January 1, 2028			
State	County	FIPS Code	SSA State/County Code
CT	Fairfield	09001	07000
CT	Hartford	09003	07010
CT	Litchfield	09005	07020
CT	Middlesex	09007	07030
CT	New Haven	09009	07040
CT	New London	09011	07050
CT	Tolland	09013	07060
CT	Windham	09015	07070

Starting in CY 2028, CMS will use Connecticut's nine (9) planning regions in lieu of the eight (8) legacy counties for the purposes of MA and Part D operations. To facilitate this change, SSA has established nine (9) new state/county codes for the Connecticut planning regions. **Table 2** presents the FIPS and SSA state/county codes that represent Connecticut's planning regions.

Table 2

Connecticut Codes Effective January 1, 2028			
State	County / Planning Region	FIPS Code	SSA State/County Code
CT	Capitol	09110	07110
CT	Greater Bridgeport	09120	07120
CT	Lower Connecticut River Valley	09130	07130
CT	Naugatuck Valley	09140	07140
CT	Northeastern Connecticut	09150	07150
CT	Northwest Hills	09160	07160
CT	South Central Connecticut	09170	07170
CT	Southeastern Connecticut	09180	07180
CT	Western Connecticut	09190	07190

Converting Service Areas

Connecticut's planning regions are configured differently than the legacy county structures in term of geography. Each planning region is comprised of a group of towns. Further, some towns within a planning region were affiliated with different counties. This variance means that a one-to-one mapping of legacy counties to planning regions cannot be established.

To prepare for the CY 2028 application submission process in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS), CMS must convert the CY 2027 Connecticut contract service areas –*currently defined using the state's legacy SSA state/county codes* – using the state's new SSA state/county codes that reflect the planning regions. Given the geographical differences between the legacy and new Connecticut code sets, CMS requires plan input on the service area conversions.

To implement this conversion, CMS will assess Connecticut coverage separately for the individual market, employer market, and any applicable Special Needs Plan (SNP) service area. Given a contract may cover all of Connecticut for one market and only part of Connecticut for another, CMS will apply the conversion approach described below based on the CY 2027 Connecticut coverage for each market or plan.

CY 2027 contract service area that covers Connecticut in full

In cases where the entire state of Connecticut is covered, CMS will define each impacted contract's baseline CY 2028 service area using all new nine (9) SSA state/county codes.

CY 2027 contract service area that covers Connecticut in part

In cases where only parts of Connecticut are covered, CMS will contact the impacted contracts directly to discuss how the covered Connecticut counties must be defined in the baseline CY 2028 service area using the new SSA state/county codes.

CMS anticipates applying these data updates in HPMS following the approval of CY 2027 contracts.

HPMS Impacts

Plan users can expect to see the Connecticut state/county code changes in HPMS when:

- Selecting pending counties for a CY 2028 initial or service area expansion application.
- Assigning counties to CY 2028 plan and segment structures.
- Selecting counties in the CY 2028 Bid Pricing Tool (BPT).
- Viewing the CY 2028 MA ratebook, which is expected to include both the SSA state/county codes and the corresponding FIPS codes.
- Viewing CY 2028 contract, plan, and segment-level service area data in modules, reports, and data extracts.

For CY 2028, CMS will also incorporate a formal SSA state/county code to FIPS code crosswalk in HPMS. Plan users may see the FIPS code(s) added alongside the SSA state/county codes in certain reports and data extracts.

Plan users will receive a separate communication addressing the implementation of these Connecticut state/county code changes in MARx.

For questions regarding this memo, please contact the HPMS Help Desk at 1-800-220-2028 or hpms@cms.hhs.gov.