



MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT AND C & D DATA GROUP

DATE: August 6, 2014

TO: Medicare Compliance Officer, Part C and D Sponsors

FROM: Amy K. Larrick, Acting Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: First Plan Preview of 2015 Star Ratings Data

This memo 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 first plan preview will be held from August 8-19, 2014. Star Rating assignments will not be available for this preview.

There will be a second Part C and D plan preview in early September that will include any revisions made as a result of the first plan preview; in addition, CMS' preliminary Star Ratings for each measure, domain, summary score, and overall score will be displayed. Medicare beneficiaries will be able to view the final Star Ratings via the MPF on www.medicare.gov in October.

Instructions for Accessing Preview Data

- To access the Part C Star Ratings preview in HPMS, from the left navigation bar select: "Quality and Performance", then "Part C Performance Metrics", then "Part C Report Card Master Table" and then select 2015 for the report period.
- To access the Part D Star Ratings preview, from the left navigation bar select: "Quality and Performance", then "Part D Performance Metrics and Reports", then "Part D Report Card Master Table" and then select 2015 for the report period.
- The Technical Notes for Part C and D are available via the "Technical Notes" link found on each page in the Master Table modules.

Changes to plan preview and Star Ratings:

- 1) As described on the August 6th User Group Call, changes to the 2015 Star Ratings include changing the weight of the improvement measure(s), the addition of a Special Needs Plan (SNP) Care Management measure, the revision of existing measures, and transition of certain 2014 measures to the display page.

During this first plan preview, CMS expects Part C and D sponsors to closely review the methodology and their posted data for each measure. Sponsors should immediately alert

CMS of any suspected data issues or errors in order to allow sufficient time to investigate and process any necessary data corrections.

Please email comments or questions to the following mailbox:

PartCandDStarRatings@cms.hhs.gov .

Please include “Plan Preview #1” and a Contract ID in the subject line. Comments and questions will be addressed on a rolling basis and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on August 19, 2014.

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