

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



## CENTER FOR MEDICARE

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**DATE:** December 9, 2014

**TO:** All HPMS Users

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

**SUBJECT:** Health Plan Management System (HPMS) Security Update - FIPS 140-2 Ciphers

On October 16, 2014, CMS implemented an HPMS security update to enforce the use of FIPS 140-2 ciphers. Several external organizations were unable to access the system following this update, so CMS removed the change in order to restore service. This update is a federally mandated security requirement and must be re-applied to HPMS. CMS will reintroduce this change on the evening of **Thursday, January 15, 2015**.

FIPS 140-2 became an active standard in May 2002; when appropriately configured, the majority of products in service today support the standard. The FIPS 140-2 ciphers are supported within the Windows XP and MAC OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard) operating systems and forward. Browsers that support FIPS 140-2 are Internet Explorer (IE) 8, Firefox 3.5, Safari 5.x, and Chrome forward. Please note that while older versions of an operating system and browser can be configured to support FIPS 140-2, the configuration may not be enabled by default.

To facilitate your preparations, CMS has established a separate HPMS website address with the FIPS 140-2 cipher activated. CMS strongly recommends that you use this alternative address to either confirm that your current configuration supports FIPS 140-2 or develop a compliant configuration.

The alternative address is <https://207.37.41.90>. You will receive a security certificate warning; this behavior is expected, and you should accept the warning to move forward.

If you can successfully access the HPMS login page, then your workstation supports the FIPS 140-2 ciphers.

If you cannot access the HPMS login page, then your organization must make the necessary changes to support the FIPS 140-2 ciphers.

**NOTE: This alternative URL points to the live HPMS production system. It is NOT a test site.**

All organizations must have an operating system and browser, both installed and appropriately configured, to support the FIPS 140-2 encryption algorithms prior to Thursday, January 15, 2015. Otherwise, your organization will no longer be able to access HPMS.

Please address any questions or concerns to the HPMS Help Desk at either [hpms@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:hpms@cms.hhs.gov) or 1-800-220-2028.