

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



Medicare Plan Payment Group
Innovative Healthcare Delivery Systems Group

DATE: October 6, 2014

TO: All Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, Cost, PACE, and Demonstration Organizations Systems Staff

FROM: Cheri Rice /s/
Director, Medicare Plan Payment Group

Cathy Carter /s/
Director, Innovative Healthcare Delivery Systems Group

SUBJECT: Advance Announcement of the February 2015 Software Release

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to implement software improvements to the enrollment and payment systems that support Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug (MAPD) programs. This letter provides advanced information regarding the planned release of systems changes scheduled for February 2015. This release focuses on improving the efficiency of CMS systems as well as Plan processing.

The February 2015 Release changes are as follows and may require Plan action:

1. [Limit the Number of Multiple Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug System \(MARx\) User Interface \(UI\) Sessions](#)
2. [Payment/Adjustment Data Export from MARx to Microsoft Excel](#)
3. [Transaction Reply Code \(TRC\) for Cumulative Number of Uncovered Month \(NUNCMO\) Amounts](#)
4. [Changes to Transaction Reply Reporting in the MARx UI](#)

In November 2014, CMS intends to provide the detailed information that Plans will require for implementation in February 2015.

1. [Limit the Number of Multiple Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug System \(MARx\) User Interface \(UI\) Sessions](#)

CMS will modify the MARx application to limit the number of concurrent logon sessions to one session in order to comply with the CMS Policy for Information Security and Privacy.

2. Payment/Adjustment Data Export from MARx to Microsoft Excel

During the August 2014 release, MARx was enhanced to allow end users to export payment/adjustment data from the (M215) Payment/Adjustment Detail screen in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. The export functionality will now incorporate beneficiary information (e.g., name, Health Insurance Claim Number).

3. Transaction Reply Code (TRC) for Cumulative Number of Uncovered Month (NUNCMO) Amounts

Federal law requires that beneficiaries who do not have Part D or other creditable coverage for sixty-three (63) days or more must be charged a Part D Late Enrollment Penalty (LEP) for each complete month they were eligible but did not have such coverage. In the February 2015 software release, CMS will begin publishing a new TRC that discloses information regarding the NUNCMO.

In addition to processing enrollments (transaction type code 61) and NUNCMO change transactions (transaction type code 73) normally, MARx will calculate the number of uncovered months using the latest enrollment period end date and the newly submitted enrollment start date. MARx will communicate this value back to the health insurance company in the form of an informational TRC. If necessary, a health insurance company may subsequently transmit the proper number of uncovered months via the NUNCMO change transaction (transaction type code 73).

4. Changes to Transaction Reply Reporting in the MARx UI

Currently, information related to Special Transaction Reply Reports (STRRs) is not correctly populated to the M313 – Transaction Reply Codes screen. After the implementation of the February 2015 release, the UI will indicate if a displayed TRC was included on a TRR or a STRR. The UI will also display the date that a STRR was distributed. Finally, the word “SUPPRESSED” will only display on the M313 screen if the TRC was not included in a TRR or a STRR.

Plans are encouraged to contact the MAPD Help Desk for any issues encountered during the systems update process. Please direct any questions or concerns to the MAPD Help Desk at 1-800-927-8069 or e-mail at mapdhelp@cms.hhs.gov.