



OFFICE OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INFORMATION (ORDI)

Date: June 22, 2006

To: All Medicare Advantage Organizations

From: Timothy P. Love
Director

Subject: Release of Medicare Health Outcomes Survey 2005 Cohort 8 Baseline Reports in HPMS.

On behalf of the entire Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) Team, I am pleased to announce the distribution of the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey 2005 *Cohort 8 Baseline Report* for all participating Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans.

A new Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS[®])¹ Measure is included in the 2005 Baseline Report.

The report includes a new section on questions related to physical activity that were incorporated into the HOS instrument for the first time in 2005.

- Two questions about physical activity were added to support a new HEDIS measure. This new measure, Physical Activity in Older Adults, is a part of the Effectiveness of Care domain of HEDIS. The plan, state, CMS Region, and national HOS results for the new HEDIS measure can be found in section (E) of this report.

The baseline report also includes: Reader's Guide, Executive Summary, Healthy Days Measures, Urinary Incontinence in Older Adults, Program Background, Definitions of Key Terms, as well as plan level Supplemental Figures. A feedback form has been provided to identify questions or comments about this report.

CMS is encouraging each MA Plan to examine their data results. This baseline report is meant to guide each MA Plan in identifying the overall health of their Medicare population and in exploring potential programmatic interventions aimed at maintaining or improving health status. Aggregate and state level information is provided to each MA Plan for their internal review.

¹ HEDIS[®] is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

All distribution occurs electronically to participating plans through the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) and to participating Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) through the QualityNet Exchange application. In addition, QIOs can access their HOS reports, as well as reports for all plans in their state, via HPMS.

Please note that if your MA Plan did not participate in *Cohort 8 Baseline*, there is no MA Plan specific report for your plan.

For a general overview of the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey program, visit CMS' new HOS web address (www.cms.hhs.gov/hos). A full description of the HOS program that includes links to research data files, data user's guides, and additional information can be found at www.hosonline.org.