



MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT AND C & D DATA GROUP

Date: November 19, 2015

To: All Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAO), Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) Sponsors, Medicare-Medicaid Plans, and 1833 & 1876 Cost Plans

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

Subject: Retail Pharmacy Network Access and Preferred Cost-Sharing Pharmacy Network Access Analysis Results

CY 2015 Analysis

Part D sponsors may now access the data from CMS's Spring 2015 retail pharmacy access analysis in HPMSⁱ. CMS used Medicare Plan Finder data submitted April 27-28, 2015 and analyzed plans' entire networks and preferred cost sharing pharmacy (PCSP) networks, if offered. CMS asks that you review the results for your plans to become familiar with the report layout, data fields (see Appendix A), and your plans' results.

CY 2016

In late November or early December, CMS will provide sponsors with the first reports for contract year 2016 using Medicare Plan Finder data as posted on October 12, 2015 (sponsors submitted data September 28-29, 2015). CMS will use this analysis to identify sponsors that are 2016 PCSP access outliersⁱⁱ. CMS will review the sponsors' marketing materials to determine if the required PCSP outlier disclaimerⁱⁱⁱ was used appropriately. Sponsors identified as PCSP access outliers and who did not use the PCSP outlier disclaimer will receive compliance or enforcement actions. Note, the PCSP analysis is not applicable to Medicare-Medicaid Plans.

CMS will publish information on PCSP access levels for each plan offering a preferred cost sharing benefit structure. The data will be posted on the CMS webpage, <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/index.html>.

If you have any questions, please submit them to the resource mailbox, PartDMonitoring@cms.hhs.gov.

ⁱ To access the Part D retail access data in HPMS, select: "Quality and Performance," then "Performance Metrics," then "Retail Pharmacy Access Data," and then "Pharmacy Network Access Data."

ⁱⁱ 2016 Call Letter – excerpt. For urban areas, PCSP access outliers are those plans offering access to a PCSP within 2 miles of fewer than 40% of beneficiaries' residences. For suburban areas, this would be plans offering access to a PCSP within 5 miles of fewer than 87% of beneficiaries' residences. For rural areas, plans that offer access to a PCSP at a rate lower than the current retail pharmacy convenient access standard of access within 15 miles of fewer than 70% of beneficiaries' residences area considered outliers.

ⁱⁱⁱ 2016 Medicare Marketing Guidelines, Section 50.15 – Pharmacy/Provider Directory and Formulary Disclaimers