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DATE: August 6, 2020

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Prescription Drug Plans, Medicare-Medicaid Plans, and Section 1876 Cost Plans

FROM: Amy Larrick Chavez-Valdez
Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: First Plan Preview of 2021 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 7-17, 2020.

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.

Star Ratings assignments will not be available for the first plan preview. A second plan preview will be conducted in September and will include any revisions made as a result of the first plan preview; in addition, CMS's 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. Data for Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) are displayed in HPMS for informational purposes only.

Instructions for Accessing Preview Data:

- To access the Part C and D Star Ratings preview in HPMS, select: "Quality and Performance," then "Performance Metrics," then "Reports," "Star Ratings and Display Measures," then "Star Ratings," and then select 2021 for the report period.
- The draft 2021 Part C & D Star Ratings Technical Notes are available via the "Download" link then "Technical Notes" within the Star Ratings module.

Changes for 2021 Star Ratings:

The Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Interim Final Rule (CMS-1744-IFC, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-04-06/pdf/2020-06990.pdf>) put on display at the Office of the Federal Register website on March 31, 2020 adopted a series of changes to the

2021 Star Ratings to accommodate the disruption to data collection posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. If you are emailing about multiple contracts with similar issues, please group your questions into a limited number of emails.

Do not submit emails requiring CMS to login to a website to access the questions. If you need to share personally identifying information (PII) with us, please contact us via email to discuss a safe way to transfer the data.

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 17, 2020.

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