



**MEDICARE ENROLLMENT & APPEALS GROUP**

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**DATE:** October 08, 2020

**TO:** All Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans, Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MA-PD) Plans, Prescription Drug Plans (PDP), Cost, Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and Demonstration Organizations

**FROM:** Jerry Mulcahy  
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**SUBJECT:** **Advance Announcement of the March 2021 Software Release – Special Election Period (SEP) Reason Code**

CMS implements software changes to the enrollment and payment systems that support MA, MAPD, PDP, Cost, PACE, and Demonstrations. This memo provides high-level advance notice regarding an upcoming systems enhancement scheduled for release in March 2021.

**In the March 2021 software release, the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug System (MARx) will be enhanced to include the following new field for enrollment and disenrollment transactions:**

- Special Election Period (SEP) Reason Code

For all enrollment and disenrollment transactions, if a MARx system user selects the Election Type Code 'S'-Special Election Period, the user will be required to select an SEP reason from a pre-populated drop down list of SEP Reason Codes. This reason code is intended to represent the basis on which a beneficiary is eligible for the SEP.

The length of the Data Transaction Reply Report (DTRR) will not be impacted by this change. This change will impact both the MARx User Interface (UI) and batch transactions. A forthcoming memo will include MARx UI screenshots and additional guidance for this enhancement. Upon release in March 2021, impacted Plans must include this field as part of their MARx enrollment or disenrollment transactions. Any retroactive transactions where the effective date is prior to the release date will not be impacted by this change.

Contact the MAPD Help Desk at 1-800-927-8069 or [mapdhelp@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:mapdhelp@cms.hhs.gov) with questions or concerns related to the advance notice of this enhancement.