

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
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CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

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TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations

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SUBJECT: Release of Pilot Medicare Advantage Health Equity Summary Score Dashboard

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is conducting **pilot testing** of the new **Health Equity Summary Score (HESS) Dashboard** to ensure that all aspects of the Dashboard's functionality operate as designed, and that the information and resources displayed support Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) in their understanding of their performance on this measure. The pilot testing period will take place from **Wednesday, October 5, 2022 to Friday, December 30, 2022**. We welcome your participation in this testing effort as we prepare for the module's production release in early 2023.

The HESS is a composite health equity score that has been adapted to allow MAOs to understand disparities in the quality of care received between and within their covered populations, including disparities in the quality of care provided to individuals who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and/or who are eligible for the Low Income Subsidy as well as disparities in the quality of care provided to individuals who are racial or ethnic minorities.

CMS's Office of Minority Health has developed a Dashboard in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) that will allow MAOs to view their **confidential** HESS performance on demand. Using the HESS Dashboard, MAOs can examine their overall performance as well as their performance on specific groups of measures, compare their performance to program benchmarks, and understand their performance trends over time. The HESS Dashboard also offers links to publicly available resources that can help MAOs improve various aspects of their scores, equipping them with the skills to take health equity actions among their contracts.

- To access the HESS Dashboard in HPMS, users will logon to HPMS and navigate to HPMS → Quality and Performance → Performance Metrics → HESS Dashboard.

- A user manual for the HESS Dashboard be found HPMS → Quality and Performance → Performance Metrics → Documentation.
- Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the HESS Dashboard can be found at HPMS → Quality and Performance → Performance Metrics → HESS Dashboard → Download File(s).

CMS is seeking input on all reporting measurements, plan user functionality, and potential enhancements to the module. Once you have completed testing, please access the [HESS Dashboard Pilot Survey](#). You have until the end of the pilot period on Friday, December 30, 2022 to submit your feedback. CMS will use this information to make adjustments to the module before going live in early 2023.

MAOs are prohibited from sharing any of the information contained in the HESS Dashboard publicly during the Dashboard's pilot testing phase.

Thank you for your assistance with the pilot testing phase of the HESS Dashboard module. For questions regarding this memo, please contact Jess Maksut at jessica.maksut@cms.hhs.gov or Meagan Khau at meagan.khau@cms.hhs.gov. For technical assistance, contact the HPMS Help Desk at 1 (800) 220-2028 or at HPMS@cms.hhs.gov. For health equity-focused technical assistance, please contact the CMS OMH Health Equity Technical Assistance Program at HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov.