

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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Center for Medicare

DATE: June 15, 2023

TO: Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans

FROM: Cheri Rice, Deputy Director, Center for Medicare

SUBJECT: Leadership Changes in the Medicare Drug Benefit and C&D Data Group

The purpose of this memo is to notify you of changes in leadership in the Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group (MDBG) in the Center for Medicare.

Amy Larrick, Director of MDBG, is leaving federal service. After 18 years, Amy's last day working at CMS will be June 22, 2023. Amy has done an outstanding job leading the Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage and Part D Star Ratings programs for nine years - the longest tenured Director of MDBG since the Part D program began. Amy has held a variety of roles since joining CMS in 2005. Prior to her position in MDBG, she was Senior Advisor to the Principal Deputy Administrator in the Office of the Administrator. In addition, Amy served as the Special Assistant to the Director of the Center for Medicare, the Deputy Director of the Center for Medicare, and the Medicare Drug & Health Plan Contract Administration Group (MCAG), and as a Medicare Advantage policy analyst in MCAG. Amy began her career at CMS as the Lead Trainer for the National Medicare Training Program, leading the outreach and training programs for beneficiaries and advocates during the initial implementation of Medicare Part D. Prior to her Federal service, Amy worked for the State of Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) and the Nebraska Rural Development Commission.

Vanessa Duran, who has been serving as the Deputy Director of MDBG since 2020, will assume the role of Acting Group Director, MDBG. Vanessa has worked at CMS since 2001. Previous to her current role, she served as Deputy Director in the CMS' Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office, Program Alignment Group, where she focused on the development and implementation of the Financial Alignment Initiative Capitated Model Demonstrations, Medicare Advantage Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans integration, and various other Medicare-Medicaid alignment initiatives. Between 2001 and 2011, Vanessa held a variety of drug and health plan policy positions in the CMS, including as Director of the Division of Policy, Analysis, and Planning in the Medicare Drug & Health Plan Contract Administration Group, as well as on teams developing and implementing the Medicare Prescription Drug Card Program and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D).

Please join me in congratulating Amy and Vanessa.