

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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CENTER FOR MEDICARE

DATE: December 23, 2021

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Prescription Drug Plans, Cost Plans, PACE Organizations, and Demonstrations

FROM: Jennifer R. Shapiro, Medicare Plan Payment Group

SUBJECT: Medicare Advantage/Prescription Drug System (MARx) January 2022 Payment – INFORMATION

This letter provides information about the January 2022 Medicare Advantage/Prescription Drug payment, which is scheduled for receipt on January 3, 2022.

CY 2020 Part D Payment Reconciliation

The final Part D reconciliation payment adjustment for 2020 is included in the January 2022 payment. The payment adjustments will be displayed on the Plan Payment Report (PPR) as Special CMS Adjustments with the TYPE “PRS.”

Sequestration Suspension

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”), enacted on March 27, 2020, suspended the sequestration of Medicare programs between May 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, enacted December 27, 2020, extended this suspension for three more months, through March 31, 2021. H.R. 1868, enacted on April 14, 2021 further extends the suspension through December 31, 2021. The Protecting Medicare and American Farmers from Sequester Cuts Act 2021, enacted on December 10, 2021, extended the suspension through March 31, 2022.

Based on the current statute, sequestration will continue to be suspended for prospective payments through March 2022 payments. CMS will resume sequestration reductions beginning with April 2022 payment for Medicare Advantage, Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, Medicare-Medicaid Plans, section 1876 and 1833 cost-based Managed Care Organizations, and Part D.

2022 Frailty Score Update

In the September 9, 2020 HPMS memo titled, “Reporting Requirements for HEDIS® Measurement Year (MY) 2020, HOS, and CAHPS® Measures, and Information Regarding HOS and HOS-M for Frailty,” CMS announced that the HOS and HOS-M surveys will continue to be fielded on the August through November timeline in 2021 and going forward. As a result, Payment Year 2022 frailty score results will be posted in HPMS and incorporated into payment on or around May 2022. Once the scores are applied to the payment calculation, retroactive payment adjustments back to January 2022 will appear on the Monthly Membership Report (MMR) using Adjustment Reason

Code (ARC) 18 – Part C Rate Change. Please note that for PACE organizations, MARx will use the default frailty score from the prior year until the new frailty scores are received. For FIDE SNPs, no frailty scores will be applied until the new frailty scores are received.

Puerto Rico Medicaid Status Updates

Please be advised that, as a result of an error in a regular update to the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug system (MARx) of data from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the status of some beneficiaries was changed from Medicaid full/partial dual to non-dual eligibility status. The error was corrected and the January prospective payment ongoing will utilize the correct full/partial dual Medicaid status. In addition, the January 2022 payment incorporates adjustments to reflect corrections for prior periods. On the January 2022 MMR, payment adjustments reflect the corrected dual status; these retroactive adjustments are shown with Adjustment Reason Code (ARC) 10 (Retroactive Medicaid Status).

Changes to MARx Plan Transaction Processing

Batch Input Transaction Data File Name

As announced in the *May 2019 Detailed Release Memo*, issued through the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) on 04/11/2019, CMS installed changes so that the Enterprise Identity Management (EIDM) User ID is used when sending the Batch Input Transaction Data File to MARx. For the Batch Input Transaction Data File to process successfully, and to receive a Batch Completion Summary Report (BCSS), plans should not submit files with the same date and time in the file name. This will cause a MARx system error and prevent the system from generating the BCSS.

Extension of the Transition Period for Submitting MARx Batch Input Header Record

CMS has extended the transition to June 30, 2022, for plan submitters to use both the old and new MARx Batch Input Detail submission files.

Questions or concerns about any of the information within this letter should be directed to the MAPD Help Desk at MAPDHelp@cms.hhs.gov, or 1-800-927-8069.