



CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

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TO: All Current and Prospective Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, Section 1876 Cost, PACE, and Demonstration Organizations

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SUBJECT: Medicare Plan Finder Enhancements for Contract Year 2022

To assist organizations with preparations for Contract Year (CY) 2022, CMS is providing an overview of enhancements planned for Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) and the related Health Plan Management System (HPMS) modules that support Part D pricing file submissions, plan benefit and drug pricing previews, suppressions and exclusions, and Online Enrollment Center (OEC) management. Further detail will be provided in subsequent guidance.

MPF

- Beginning with CY 2022, MPF will no longer present “Estimated Total Yearly Costs for Care” (i.e., the Estimated Yearly Costs section of the Plan Details Overview). The Office of Communications is evaluating solutions that will improve a beneficiary's ability to understand and compare healthcare costs in Medicare Plan Finder. Please note that this change will not impact the estimation of drug costs generated by beneficiary drug selections in the MPF interface.
- Users will be able to find in-network pharmacies, with special attention given to preferred pharmacies, for a given Part C or Part D plan from the MPF Plan Details page.
- CMS will redesign the MPF Plan Details page so that beneficiaries can parse information and locate the most commonly sought benefits and cost sharing. The redesign will include a new drug table that breaks out the cost of each individual drug toward the total annual drug cost.
- The MPF pages are being updated to make it easier for beneficiaries to read and compare Part C and Part D options, including enhanced print options on the Plan Results, Plan Compare, and Plan Details pages and improved filter layout and visibility.

- The Coverage Wizard, PACE, and SPAP/PAP pages will be updated to align with the medicare.gov design system.
- The OEC form will be enhanced to improve usability (e.g., assisting beneficiaries to clearly select the appropriate language for take-home materials and pre-populating e-mail addresses for logged-in users).
- CMS will simplify the Special Election Period (SEP) selection page, including limiting “Other” SEP options to be visible only by CMS customer service representatives. This change will ensure that beneficiaries are not erroneously selecting the “Other” SEP option on the OEC form.
- The OEC form will be updated to include additional SEP codes.

Part D Pricing File Submission (PDPFS) Module

- The subject line of email notifications will be enhanced to include the contract number, the contract year, and whether the submission window is live or test.
- The Findings Details Report will offer additional search filters. Please note that these changes will be available when plans begin live CY 2022 pricing file submissions on September 13, 2021.
- There will be a new brand and generic dispensing fee validation.
- CMS will continue to optimize performance in order to reduce processing time.
- The PDPFS module will be converted to the latest HPMS look and feel.

Online Enrollment Center (OEC) Management Module

- There will be a new aging report that tracks the age of enrollments (by days) before plans download their data from the module.
- CMS will continue to optimize performance in order to improve speed and reliability.
- The OEC Management module will be converted to the latest HPMS look and feel.

Plan Benefit Preview

- Preview comments categories will be updated to reflect the benefit categories rather than the sections of the Medicare Plan Finder. Users will retain the ability to add comment categories.
- Updated timeline cards will be available on the preview dashboard.
- The plan benefit preview functionality will be converted to the latest HPMS look and feel.

Drug Pricing Preview

- Plans will be able to preview drug pricing data using low-income subsidy (LIS) filter options.
- Plans will be able to do a side-by-side comparison of the drug pricing preview and their Part D PBP benefit reports.
- Updated timeline cards will be available on the preview dashboard.
- The drug pricing preview functionality will be converted to the latest HPMS look and feel.

Medicare & You Handbook Preview

- The Medicare & You Handbook Preview will be integrated into the “Plan Data Previews” module in HPMS.
- The handbook preview functionality will be converted to the latest HPMS look and feel.

Suppressions and Exclusions Module

- Module access will be expanded to formulary consultant users.
- The suppressions and exclusions functionality will be converted to the latest HPMS look and feel.

MPF Out-of-Pocket Cost (OOPC) Preview

- As noted above in the “MPF” section, HPMS will discontinue generation of the MPF OOPC data starting with CY 2022. Likewise, the MPF OOPC preview will be retired.

For questions regarding this memo, please contact the MPF team at MPF@cms.hhs.gov and the HPMS team at hpms@cms.hhs.gov.