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DATE: January 27, 2020

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

FROM: Amy Larrick Chavez-Valdez, Director
Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: Contract Year 2021 Plan Benefit Package Testing

We would like to express our appreciation for the comments and suggestions provided as part of the Plan Benefit Package (PBP) lessons learned process conducted in the summer of 2019. CMS has used those comments as well as feedback obtained throughout the year to implement changes to the PBP software for Contract Year (CY) 2021.

We are now conducting beta testing to ensure that all aspects of the CY 2021 PBP software work as designed. As in past years, we are requesting your assistance in the final testing of the CY 2021 PBP. Your input has been critical to the development of the CY 2021 PBP, and we strongly encourage you to participate in this testing process.

Testing will take place from **Monday, January 27, 2020 through Friday, February 7, 2020.**

You may download the CY 2021 PBP beta software, lists of the CY 2021 detailed PBP changes, pending PBP changes, and known beta software bugs/errors, starting at 6:00 a.m. ET on January 27 at the following website:

https://hpms.cms.gov/public_files/SetupPBP2021Beta.zip

For technical assistance with downloading and installing the test CY 2021 PBP, please contact the HPMS Help Desk at either 1-800-220-2028 or hpms@cms.hhs.gov.

Please pay close attention to the instructions for downloading this software in order to preserve your production CY 2020 PBP data. It is imperative that you retain your CY 2020 PBP databases if you intend to utilize the year-to-year plan copy functionality included with the CY 2021 PBP software. The year-to-year plan copy functionality will not work if you do not have your CY 2020 PBP database, and CMS will not rebuild your local 2020 database.

Once you have completed testing, please access the PBP beta testing comment site (<https://cmsgov.wufoo.com/forms/cy2021-pbp-beta-testing-comment-site/>) to document and

submit any comments and/or technical errors. You will be asked to provide the PBP Section/Function, the PBP question, the error message received, whether the error could be replicated, and the order of events leading up to the error. CMS will use this information to correct the errors and make critical changes to the system before deployment.

Thank you for your assistance with the final testing phase of the CY 2021 PBP. For questions regarding this memo, please contact Andrew Chu (410-786-0488 or Andrew.Chu@cms.hhs.gov) or Erica Scott (410-786-0920 or Erica.Scott@cms.hhs.gov).