



MEDICARE-MEDICAID COORDINATION OFFICE

DATE: July 30, 2020

TO: Medicare-Medicaid Plans in California

FROM: Lindsay P. Barnette
Director, Models, Demonstrations and Analysis Group

SUBJECT: California-Specific Quality Withhold Technical Notes for Demonstration Years 2 through 8

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the release of the Demonstration Years (DY) 2 through 8 state-specific quality withhold technical notes for Cal MediConnect, the California capitated model demonstration under the Medicare-Medicaid Financial Alignment Initiative. The document provides additional details and benchmarks for the state-specific quality withhold measures that California Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) are responsible for under the demonstration. These state-specific measures directly supplement the [Medicare-Medicaid Capitated Financial Alignment Model CMS Core Quality Withhold Technical Notes for DY 2 through 8](#).

As noted when the draft was released for public comment on December 20, 2019, CMS and the state revised the California quality withhold technical notes to cover additional demonstration years, including updating benchmarks and adding a new quality withhold measure. We thank those organizations that provided comments on the proposed revisions. Based on feedback received regarding measure CAW7, we changed the applicable baseline year for DY 6 through 8. We did not make any changes to other measures. However, given that we received several comments regarding the measures with benchmark increases, we wanted to reiterate that the gap closure target methodology applies to those measures. Several commenters suggested a gradual increase to the benchmarks, but that approach is unnecessary since the gap closure target methodology allows MMPs to pass the measures based on incremental improvement toward the benchmarks each year.

Please contact the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office at mmcocapsmodel@cms.hhs.gov if you have any questions.