

**Office of Research, Development, and Information**

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**Date:** August 20, 2008

**To:** All Medicare Advantage Organizations

**From:** Timothy P. Love /s/  
Director

**Subject:** Release of Medicare Health Outcomes Survey 2007 Cohort 10 Baseline Reports and 2005-2007 Cohort 8 Performance Measurement Reports in the Health Plan Management System

On behalf of the entire Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) Team, I am pleased to announce the distribution of the following reports for all participating Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs):

- Medicare HOS 2007 Cohort 10 Baseline Report: July 25, 2008
- Medicare HOS 2005-2007 Cohort 8 Performance Measurement Report: August 6, 2008

**Medicare HOS Version 2.0**

The 2007 Cohort 10 Baseline Report includes results from the Medicare HOS version 2.0. In the spring of 2006, CMS implemented the Medicare HOS 2.0 for MAOs. The HOS 2.0 evaluates physical and mental health status using the Veterans RAND 12-Item Health Survey. Use of this instrument reduces beneficiary burden while maintaining comparability of HOS results over time.

***2007 Cohort 10 Baseline Report***

The baseline report includes, but is not limited to: a Reader's Guide, Program Highlights, Executive Summary, Physical and Mental Component Summary Scores, General Health and Comparative Health, a Depression Screen, Chronic Medical Conditions, Activities of Daily Living, Healthy Days Measures, Clinical Measures, Urinary Incontinence in Older Adults, Physical Activity in Older Adults, Fall Risk Management, and Osteoporosis Testing in Older Women, as well as Program Background, Methodology and Design, and MAO Level Frequencies for the 2007 Cohort 10 Baseline Survey Fields.

### ***2005-2007 Cohort 8 Performance Measurement Report***

The 2005-2007 Cohort 8 Performance Measurement Report presents results for MAOs based on data from the Medicare HOS 2005 Cohort 8 Baseline and 2007 Cohort 8 Follow Up surveys. The HOS performance measurement results describe change in health status over time for beneficiaries in your state.

The performance measurement report also includes a Reader's Guide, Program Highlights, Executive Summary, and Performance Measurement Results for key health indicators such as Physical Health, Mental Health, General Health and Comparative Health, Chronic Medical Conditions, and Clinical Measures, as well as Calculation of Outcomes, and MAO Level Frequencies for the 2007 Cohort 8 Follow Up Survey Fields.

The report provides performance measurement results for the eighth time since the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey was introduced as a HEDIS<sup>®</sup> measure in 1998. The HOS is an effectiveness of care component of HEDIS that measures an MAO's ability to maintain or improve the physical and mental health of its Medicare beneficiaries over time.

### **Uses of HOS Data**

CMS is encouraging each MAO to work in collaboration with their Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) to examine their results. Readers may visit the HOS website for Webinars addressing how HOS data can be used for quality improvement activities. Additionally, the "Featured Uses of HOS Data" section of each report provides examples of how MAOs may use their results to target quality improvement activities.

The baseline and two-year performance measurement results are intended to provide information for each MAO to use in designing an improved health care delivery system to better meet the needs of the beneficiaries in its service area.

### **Distribution of Reports**

All distribution occurs electronically to participating MAOs through the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) and to participating QIOs through the QualityNet application. In addition, QIOs can access their HOS reports, as well as reports for all MAOs in their state, via HPMS. The HOS Performance Measurement reports are available in HPMS for Cohorts 1–8. The HOS Baseline reports are available in HPMS for Cohorts 4–10.

Please note that if your MAO did not participate in the 2007 Cohort 10 Baseline or 2005-2007 Cohort 8 Performance Measurement, there are no MAO specific reports for your organization.

For a general overview of the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey program, visit CMS' HOS web address ([www.cms.hhs.gov/hos](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hos)).