



Office of Research, Development, and Information

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To: All Medicare Advantage Organizations, PACE Organizations, and Massachusetts Health Senior Care Options, Minnesota Senior Health Options, Minnesota Disability Health Options, and Wisconsin Partnership Program Plans

From: Timothy P. Love
Director

Subject: Release of 2008 Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) and Medicare HOS-Modified Reports in HPMS

On behalf of the entire Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) Team, I am pleased to announce the availability of the following reports for participating Medicare managed care plans:

- 2006-2008 Medicare HOS Cohort 9 Performance Measurement Report
- 2008 Medicare HOS Cohort 11 Baseline Report
- 2008 Medicare HOS-Modified Report

MEDICARE HOS VERSION 2.0

The *2006-2008 Cohort 9 Performance Measurement Report* and the *2008 Cohort 11 Baseline Report* include 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.

2006-2008 Cohort 9 Performance Measurement Report

The *2006-2008 Cohort 9 Performance Measurement Report* presents results for MAOs based on data from the Medicare HOS *2006 Cohort 9 Baseline* and *2008 Cohort 9 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, 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 *2008 Cohort 9 Follow Up* Survey Fields.

The report provides performance measurement results for the ninth time since the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey was introduced as a HEDIS[®] 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.

2008 Cohort 11 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 *2008 Cohort 11 Baseline* Survey Fields.

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.

2008 MEDICARE HOS-MODIFIED REPORT

The HOS-M, which is an abbreviated version of the Medicare HOS, assesses the physical and mental health functioning of enrollees in Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Organizations and targeted dual eligible Special Needs Plans (SNPs) to generate information for payment adjustment.

The HOS-M report focuses on specialized plans serving frail and elderly beneficiaries, and provides a summary of demographic information, physical and mental health status, and selected health status measures. Additionally, in each respective plan report, the health status of the plan's frail and elderly enrollees is compared to the combined Medicare HOS-M sample averages (HOS-M Total).

CMS encourages each participating PACE Organization and SNP to examine their results for use in quality improvement activities. You may submit inquiries to hos@azqio.sdps.org, or contact Health Services Advisory Group through the HOS Information and Technical Support telephone line at (888) 880-0077.

DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS

All report distribution occurs electronically to participating MAOs, PACE Organizations, and SNPs through the Health Plan Management System (HPMS). The HOS Baseline and Performance Measurement reports are disseminated 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 6–9. The HOS Baseline reports are available in HPMS for Cohorts 8–11. The HOS-M reports are available in HPMS for years 2007 and 2008.

Please note that if your MAO did not participate in *2006-2008 Cohort 9 Performance Measurement* or in *2008 Cohort 11 Baseline*, 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).