



OFFICE OF THE ACTUARY

DATE: February 9, 2018

TO: Medicare Advantage & Prescription Drug Plan Sponsors and Certifying Actuaries

FROM: Jennifer Lazio, Director, Parts C & D Actuarial Group

SUBJECT: Contract Year 2019 MA and Part D Bid Pricing Tool Beta Testing

We are pleased to announce that CMS will be conducting beta testing of the draft Contract Year (CY) 2019 Bid Pricing Tool (BPT). Testing will take place from Thursday, February 15, 2018 until Friday, March 2, 2018. During this time, you may download the draft CY 2019 bid forms and instructions at the following website:

http://hpms.cms.fu.com/comments/Allcom/comments_start.asp?comment=1440

If you have any comments on the beta BPTs and/or draft bid instructions, please submit them as soon as possible but no later than **COB Friday, March 2, 2018** in order for CMS to continue the development of the CY 2019 BPTs to meet the expected production release on April 6, 2018. Any comments must be reported to CMS via the website indicated above.

Please note that this beta release contains draft versions of the CY 2019 bid forms and instructions. As such:

- The BPTs and instructions are subject to change by CMS prior to the production release.
- The beta BPTs cannot be used to upload any CY 2019 bids to HPMS. Organizations must download the production BPTs, and use the production BPTs to prepare and upload all CY 2019 bids.
- The beta BPTs do not contain certain annual parameter updates for CY 2019. For example, the MA ratebook and Part D benefit parameters have not been updated (i.e., the beta BPTs contain CY 2018 values or placeholders).

Thank you for your assistance with this process.

Technical note regarding the BPTs: The add-in file (BPT2019.xlam) must be saved under the C:\BPT\BPT2019\ directory. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the HPMS Help Desk at either 1-800-220-2028 or hpms@cms.hhs.gov.