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**DATE:** September 11, 2018

**TO:** All Part D Sponsors

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

**SUBJECT:** Optional CY 2019 Formulary Enhancement Submission Window

CMS is offering a final CY 2019 formulary submission window that will permit plans to submit formulary enhancements to CMS prior to the start of the 2019 contract year. While Part D Sponsors may enhance their formularies at any time, including prior to the start of the contract year, we are offering this additional window to allow another opportunity for plans to submit formulary changes in order that the Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) displays accurate and up-to-date formulary information during the Annual Election Period (AEP). Enhancements, which include the addition of a Part D drug, the movement to a lower cost-sharing tier, and the removal of utilization management (UM) requirements, can be implemented immediately by a Part D sponsor.

Part D sponsors may submit their CY 2019 formulary enhancements between **12:00 a.m. EDT September 21, 2018 and 5:00 p.m. EDT on September 25, 2018**. An updated CY 2019 formulary reference file (FRF) will be available within the CY 2019 HPMS Formulary Submission Module by close of business on September 14, 2018. In addition to the inclusion of RXCUIs that are new to the FRF, Part D sponsors will be permitted to submit other enhancements that have been made to their formulary since the August formulary update window. However, since the Part D bid that was submitted to and approved by CMS would have reflected the formulary submitted as part of the bid, we do not expect to see a significant number of enhancements for a given formulary.

If you have any questions regarding this formulary enhancement window, please email [PartDFormularies@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:PartDFormularies@cms.hhs.gov)