

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Medicare
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CENTER FOR MEDICARE

TO: All Prescription Drug Plan Sponsors

FROM: Amy Larrick Chavez-Valdez
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SUBJECT: Access to the Additional Beneficiary Information Initiatives (ABII) Web Portal

DATE: August 14, 2018

In the 2019 Call Letter, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the planned launch of the Additional Beneficiary Information Initiatives (ABII) web portal. The ABII web portal has been developed to improve the coordination of benefits process by providing Part D plans with additional information about their enrollees. Plans should use these data to determine coverage of drugs under Part D. This memorandum clarifies how Part D plans should use CMS data including those stored within ABII to determine coverage of immunosuppressants beginning in 2019. It also provides technical information about the ABII portal including the process and time frame for submitting access requests.

A. Clarified 2019 Guidance for Part D plans

The 2019 Call Letter provided new guidance on how Part D sponsors are expected to determine whether immunosuppressants are coverable under Part D. We are further clarifying that beginning in 2019, when the Part D plan receives new information from CMS (in MARx, ABII, or through a CMS program audit) indicating a Medicare covered transplant, it should rely on the new CMS information from that point forward, even if it is in conflict with the plan's prior research. For example, if as a result of prior due diligence, a plan paid for immunosuppressants under Part D but the new CMS data indicates that Medicare covered the transplant, past claims need not be adjusted. However going forward the plan may no longer cover the drugs under Part D, and must notify the enrollee that the plan may no longer pay for immunosuppressants because they will now be covered under Medicare Part B.

B. Requesting and Using ABII Reports

We encourage Part D plans in preparation for Contact Year (CY) 2019 to request access to the ABII portal for the current year's enrollees. The ABII (pronounced "Abby") web portal will provide a secure mechanism for Part D plans to retrieve information about their enrollees for the purpose of improving administration of the Part D benefit. Hosted by Acumen, LLC (Acumen),

the ABII portal will be accessible only to authorized users, and each contract will have its own segmented space within the module. Each Part D plan is responsible for obtaining and maintaining access to the ABII web portal for its organization. Authorized ABII users will be notified when a new report is available for download.

Once plans gain access to the ABII web portal they may request reports (see attached transplant report template) for their enrolled beneficiaries beginning with the plan's current (CY 2018) enrollees who have received a Medicare-covered, non-renal transplant. (ABII will not include renal transplants at this time, plans will continue to rely on MARx for renal transplant information).

Beneficiary-level non-renal transplant information represents only the first wave of information to be stored and made available upon request in accordance with applicable law through the ABII web portal. Upon request CMS will also make reports available to Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) detailing the dialysis center used by each patient enrolled in the plan. CMS anticipates plans' interest in such reports, as they should enable coordination between the PDP and the beneficiary's dialysis center. We also invite plans to submit additional ideas on how ABII could provide additional information to Part D plans that would help them improve coordination of the Part D benefit. Suggestions may be sent to PartD_COB@cms.hhs.gov.

C. User Authorization Instructions for Access to the ABII Web Portal

The User Authorization section of this memorandum provides instructions for adding users by **August 31, 2018**. To gain or maintain access to the ABII Web Portal, your contract's Medicare Compliance Officer (MCO) must complete the following steps:

1. Identify individuals who should have access to the ABII Web Portal

If your contract is active in CY 2018 or CY 2019, you must authorize user access to the ABII Web Portal. You may choose to authorize representatives that are currently users on other Acumen Web Portals, however, each user authorization must be completed again, specifically for the ABII Web Portal.

For security purposes, each contract is limited to five authorized users on the ABII Web Portal. All authorized users will have access to all relevant features of the ABII Web Portal, including downloading reports, accessing discussion boards, and receiving e-mail notifications.

2. Log onto the User Security Web Portal

Access to the ABII Web Portal is managed by each contract's MCO through Acumen's User Security Web Portal (https://PartD.ProgramInfo.us/User_Security). The latest MCO on record for each contract in HPMS has been granted access to the User Security Web Portal if the contract is active in at least one Acumen related web portal.

If your contract is active in CY 2018 or CY 2019, your contract must update your MCO's contact information in HPMS to reflect the appropriate individual. Acumen will then disseminate login credentials to the updated MCO.

To access the User Security Web Portal:

- a. Navigate to the Web Portal at https://PartD.ProgramInfo.us/User_Security.
- b. Agree to the Warning Notice.
- c. Enter your username and login password.

Note that new users will receive a credential email to set up a password before they can log in using the steps above. If your MCO does not have access to the User Security Web Portal or requires assistance logging in, please contact Acumen at ABII@AcumenLLC.com.

3. Designate Users and Authorize Access Permissions

If your contract is active in CY 2018 or CY 2019, your MCO must log in to the User Security Web Portal to add new users and authorize access permissions or choose to authorize existing users to access your contract's information.

To designate users and authorize access permissions, MCOs must complete the following steps through the User Security Web Portal:

- a. Add an existing and/or new user.
- b. Select the Web Portal and contract(s) for each user.
- c. Authorize access permissions for each user.

MCOs may also designate themselves as one of the five authorized users on the ABII Web Portal.

Following the user authorization process, Acumen will send the following to each newly authorized ABII Web Portal user:

- a. A welcome email with the ABII Web Portal user guide and Web Portal URL.
- b. A credential email with a unique one-time password link and login username.

For a contract's users to receive access to reports within ABII, the MCO must fill out a form requesting the report be made available to users associated with the contract. The data request form is available on the web portal under the Help Documents section. Data request forms must be submitted by the MCO of the contract through the Upload Files page of the web portal. Only forms with a Form Status of "Complete" will be accepted, and forms must follow the naming convention below to be processed:

- a. *ContractID_ABII_Data_Request_Form.xlsx*

To ensure timely access to the ABII Web Portal, requestors must complete all steps of the user authorization process by August 31, 2018.

If you have any questions or require assistance with the user authorization process, please contact Acumen at ABII@AcumenLLC.com.