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MEDICARE PLAN PAYMENT GROUP**

TO: All Medicare Advantage (MA) Organizations, Cost Plans,
and PACE Organizations

FROM: Jennifer Harlow, Deputy Director
Medicare Plan Payment Group

SUBJECT: Release of Streamlined Encounter Data Submission Guidance

DATE: June 11, 2018

The purpose of this memo is to provide information on the release of streamlined guidance on encounter data submission and processing. CMS has consolidated existing guidance on encounter data submission as part of CMS' ongoing multi-pronged outreach effort to provide technical support for plans' encounter data submission. The streamlined guidance is intended to support MAOs in submission of encounter data by consolidating several existing documents and creating a revised easy-to-use website.

1. ***Encounter Data Submission and Processing Guide.*** CMS has consolidated all encounter data guidance into a single document.
 - This new *Encounter Data Submission and Processing Guide* will replace the existing Companion Guides and ED Participant Guide.
 - The *Encounter Data Submission and Processing Guide* also incorporates information from additional documents, such as User Groups slides, and Questions and Answers from User Groups and mailboxes.
 - The previous Companion Guides and ED Participant Guide will be archived under the *ARCHIVES* section of the <http://www.csscooperations.com> website.
2. ***MA & Part D Communications Handbook.*** CMS has compiled information on how to connect to CMS' systems to transfer and receive files for encounter data, RAPS data, and Part D PDE data into a single document.
3. ***Streamlined technical assistance Website.*** CMS has redesigned the *csscooperations.com* website to enable users to find documents more easily.

Please send your comments, suggestions, and questions to encounterdata@cms.hhs.gov. Please use "*ED Guide*" as the subject in all communications regarding the documents and website described in this memo.