

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



CENTER FOR MEDICARE

DATE: October 26, 2018

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations

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

SUBJECT: Availability of Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) *2015-2017 Cohort 18 Performance Measurement Data*

On behalf of the entire Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) Team, I am pleased to announce that the Medicare HOS *2015-2017 Cohort 18 Performance Measurement* beneficiary level data are available for those organizations which continue to participate in the Medicare Advantage program.

The Medicare HOS *2015-2017 Cohort 18 Performance Measurement* Data File and accompanying documentation are the most recent release of beneficiary level HOS data to individual Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs). The HOS data are intended to support quality improvement activities and initiatives. Since the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) also uses the data for MAO program oversight, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of General Counsel has advised that neither the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 nor the Privacy Act preclude release of HOS data to MAOs.

Due to the extremely sensitive nature of these data, each participating MAO must obtain their data from the Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) by contacting the HOS Information and Technical Support via email at hos@area-M.hcqis.org. Please provide your organization's designated recipient of the data, your plan's address, return telephone number, and CMS contract number(s). The data are available for distribution to MAOs at no cost, and will be provided via secure file transfer, formatted as an encrypted CSV (comma-separated values) file.

If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact HSAG through the HOS Information and Technical Support email address listed above or by telephone at (888) 880-0077. For policy or program concerns related to the HOS, please email hos@cms.hhs.gov. For a general overview of the Medicare HOS program, visit the CMS HOS website at www.cms.gov/hos. A full description of the HOS program that includes links to research data files, data user's guides, uses of the HOS data, and additional information may be found at www.HOSonline.org.