

HPMS E-Mail

Date: February 28, 2018

Subject: CY 2019 Formulary Reference File (FRF)

In the CY 2019 Draft Call Letter (<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/MedicareAdvtgSpecRateStats/Downloads/Advance2019Part2.pdf>), CMS announced that we would be analyzing Part D utilization of current FRF drugs with the intent of removing drugs that are more commonly covered under Medicare Part B or in the hospital setting. The inclusion of these drugs on the Part D FRF may lead to beneficiary confusion, since FRF drugs are displayed in the Medicare Plan Finder.

A draft CY 2019 FRF that reflects the deletions as a result of this analysis will be available for download today from the following webpage: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/RxContracting_FormularyGuidance.html. The first tab of the workbook contains the draft CY 2019 FRF in its entirety, and the second tab contains just those RXCUIs that were deleted as a result of this review. We stress that the presence or absence of a drug from the FRF does not indicate whether a particular drug is eligible for Part D coverage. To that end, Part D sponsors may still include products that are proposed for deletion from the FRF on their formulary websites and other documents, as determined appropriate for Part D coverage by the sponsor's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. If your organization believes that certain RXCUIs should be maintained on the FRF, please complete the additional fields for the applicable RXCUIs on the second tab and submit that worksheet only to PartDFormularies@cms.hhs.gov by March 9, 2018.

CMS will post an updated version of the CY 2019 FRF in the HPMS Formulary Submission Module in March, along with the CY 2018 to CY 2019 FRF crosswalk file.