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DATE: January 2, 2019

TO: Medicare Advantage and §1876 Cost Contract Quality Contacts, and Compliance Officers

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

SUBJECT: HEDIS® 2019 Patient-Level Data File Submission Information

As part of the HEDIS reporting requirements described in the HPMS Memo entitled, “Reporting Requirements for 2019 HEDIS, HOS, and CAHPS Measures,” the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) and §1876 Cost Contracts to submit HEDIS 2019 data for both the summary- and patient-levels. This memorandum provides further information about how to successfully proceed with your HEDIS 2019 Patient-Level Data (PLD) file submission.

If a MAO had zero members enrolled for calendar year 2018, then the MAO is not required to submit HEDIS 2019 PLD files.

The HEDIS 2019 PLD instructional documents for file submission can be found at: <http://go.cms.gov/plandata> under the “Downloads” section, near the bottom of the page.

Both Medicare HEDIS summary-level data and HEDIS PLD files must be validated and submitted in accordance with the file submission instructions posted on www.cms.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, on Monday, June 17, 2019.

Contracts that fail to submit error-free HEDIS 2019 PLD files by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, on Monday, June 17, 2019, will receive one star in each of the 2020 Star Ratings measures included in the file. The reduction policy includes contracts that submit files with internal identifiers instead of HICNs. We understand that there will be cases where contracts may have erroneous or outdated HICNs for a few enrollees. CMS will not penalize contracts for these one-off issues. However, the reduction to one star will be applied when contracts do not submit valid HICNs for the majority of their enrollees. The Star Ratings measures per file are:

HEDIS 2019 PLD File 1 (MA & 1876 Cost contracts):

- Breast Cancer Screening (BCS)
- Colorectal Cancer Screening (COL)
- Adult BMI Assessment (ABA)

- Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture (OMW)
- Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC) – Eye Exam
- Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC) – Medical Attention of Nephropathy
- Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC) – HbA1c poor control (>9.0%)
- Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug Therapy for Rheumatoid Arthritis (ART)
- Medication Reconciliation Post-Discharge (MRP)
- Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease (SPC)

HEDIS 2019 PLD File 2 (MA contracts only):

- Plan All-Cause Readmissions (PCR)

HEDIS 2019 PLD Resources

CMS has posted current versions of the HEDIS 2019 PLD file instructional documents at: <http://go.cms.gov/plandata> under the “Downloads” section, near the bottom of the page. Here is the list of posted resource documents:

1. HEDIS 2019 PLD File Specifications, File 1 of 2 (2018 Measurement Year)
2. HEDIS 2019 PLD File Specifications, File 2 of 2 (2018 Measurement Year)
3. HEDIS 2019 PLD File 1 of 2 (2018 Measurement Year)
4. HEDIS 2019 PLD File 2 of 2 (2018 Measurement Year)
5. HEDIS 2018 to HEDIS 2019 File Specifications Crosswalk
6. HEDIS 2019 PLD File Submission Instructions (2018 Measurement Year)

Use all of the HEDIS 2019 documents on <http://go.cms.gov/plandata> to produce your measurement year (MY) 2018 HEDIS PLD files for your HEDIS 2019 PLD file submissions. Be sure to inform your NCQA-Certified HEDIS Compliance Auditor and any third-party vendor submitting these data on your behalf about the HEDIS 2019 file submission instructions at <http://go.cms.gov/plandata>.

CMS highly recommends that all contracts use the HEDIS 2018 to HEDIS 2019 File Specifications Crosswalk to identify the changes from HEDIS PLD 2018 to HEDIS PLD 2019.

MA Contract HEDIS 2019 PLD File Submission to CMS

All contracts must submit their HEDIS 2019 PLD data files into the secure CMS Enterprise File Transfer (EFT) infrastructure using an existing Gentran, MFT Internet, or Connect: Direct account which is currently used to submit other beneficiary specific information to CMS. Contracts will use their existing EFT method to upload their HEDIS 2019 data (MY 2018 HEDIS PLD) using the file naming conventions in the HEDIS 2019 PLD file submission instructions. **Please test your existing EFT method prior to May 28, 2019 to ensure that your contract will not have any transmission issues.**

If your organization uses the services of a third-party vendor, notify your vendor about the HEDIS 2019 PLD file submission requirements so that they can successfully submit your

HEDIS 2019 PLD files on your behalf. All contracts or their third-party vendors can begin to submit the HEDIS 2019 PLD files starting at 8:00 am Eastern Time, on Tuesday, May 28, 2019. In the event a file does not pass validation, you should immediately inform your vendor so that your vendor may successfully submit a completely corrected file by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on Monday, June 17, 2019.

Scope Infotech, Inc., the CMS contractor for HEDIS PLD, will access your submitted files through the same CMS system to complete the validation of your data. CMS requires your MA organization designate a “Point of Contact” (POC). Your designated POC will be issued an ID and will have to create a password to see the status of your HEDIS 2019 PLD file submission via the secure portal at <https://mapld.scopeinfotechinc.com>. Scope Infotech, Inc., is fully accountable for adhering to Federal laws and regulations regarding security and confidentiality of personally identifiable information and protected health information in their stated CMS contract.

CMS highly recommends that your designated POC follow the steps in the HEDIS 2019 PLD File Submission Instructions to grant secure portal access to another person in your MA organization to be a back-up POC to the designated POC. As early as possible your MA organization’s POC should add the back-up POC through the HEDIS PLD secure portal, <https://mapld.scopeinfotechinc.com> or by emailing all POC (primary POC and back-up POC) information to Scope Infotech at MA_patient_data@scopeinfotechinc.com.

For questions about the HEDIS 2019 PLD file specifications, file submission instructions, and related matters, please email MA_patient_data@scopeinfotechinc.com.

We will begin HEDIS PLD file submission on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time. We will end HEDIS PLD file submission on Monday, June 17, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. No late file submissions are allowed.

As part of your HEDIS 2019 PLD data file submission, you must have the HEDIS 2019 PLD file submission match your HEDIS Summary-Level data file submission. If you have questions about the HEDIS 2019 Summary-Level data submission, contact your HEDIS account manager at NCQA.

For questions about this CMS Memorandum, email HEDISquestions@cms.hhs.gov.