

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
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DATE: **October 2, 2019**

TO: All Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, Cost, PACE, and Demonstration
 Organizations Systems Staff

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SUBJECT: Advance Announcement of the November 2019 Software Release

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) implements software changes to the enrollment and payment systems that support Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) programs. This letter provides high level advance information regarding the planned systems change scheduled for the November 2019 software release. Additional details will be provided closer to the release date.

The November 2019 software release will include the following:

1. **Enrollment Election Type Changes for 2020**
2. **Automatic Number of Uncovered Months (NUNCMO) Resets for Low Income Beneficiaries in U.S. Territory Part D Plans**
3. **New Medicare Card Project Transition Period – MARx Reminder**

Plans are encouraged to contact the MAPD Help Desk for any issues encountered during the systems update process. Please direct any questions or concerns to the MAPD Help Desk at 1-800-927-8069 or e-mail at mapdhelp@cms.hhs.gov.

1. Enrollment Election Type Changes for 2020

In the fall of 2018, CMS implemented two (2) Change Requests (CRs): CR1, “Discontinuation of the Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period (MADP) and Establishment of a New Election Period, Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MA-OEP),” and CR2, “Low Income Subsidy (LIS) Special Enrollment Period (SEP) changes and the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act.” CR1 allowed Medicare Advantage (MA) beneficiaries more flexibility during the MA-OEP to enroll in and disenroll from an MA plan during the first three months of the year, and also applied to newly MA-eligible beneficiaries within the first three months of entitlement. CR2 limited the use of the SEP for dually- and other LIS-eligible individuals (herein referred to as the “Dual/LIS Quarterly SEP”), wherein beneficiaries were previously able to change plans every month. The purpose of this change request for 2020 is to alleviate some enrollment issues surrounding the implementation of these two (2) CRs. Specifically, this will prevent the rejection of enrollments for eligible beneficiaries who make a valid election using the MA-OEP and the Dual/LIS Quarterly SEP.

The following is a summary of the changes:

MA-OEP

- Using the MA-OEP (“M”) election type code for disenrollment and a subsequent enrollment for the same effective date will only count as a single use of the election.
- During the MA-OEP calendar year, the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug System (MARx) will allow only **one (1)** disenrollment usage of the “M” election type code for it to NOT be counted as a use of the “M” election type code, and only if the disenrollment using the “M” election type code precedes an enrollment using the “M” election type code.
- A disenrollment using the “M” election type code and a subsequent enrollment using the “M” election type code will be accepted as long as the effective dates of both the disenrollment and enrollment are the same. MARx will allow all three (3) uses of the MA-OEP “M” election type code (disenrollment, enrollment (MA) and enrollment Prescription Drug Plan (PDP), but will only count this as one usage of the “M” election type code.
- On the M232 Eligibility screen, MARx will display the enrollment application date for the last use of the “M” election type code.
- Medicare-Medicaid Plans will be allowed to use the “M” election type code for both enrollments and disenrollments.
- MA-OEP enrollments with a 2/1, 3/1, or 4/1 effective date will be allowed, even if the beneficiary has disenrolled from the MA or MAPD Plan in the prior month.
- MA-OEP enrollments with an effective date after 4/1 will be allowed only for:
 - Newly eligible MA beneficiaries using their Initial Coverage Election Period (ICEP).
 - Newly eligible beneficiaries enrolling in an MAPD Plan using their Initial Election Period (IEP) to switch their MA Plan or disenroll and obtain coverage from Original Medicare, with or without Part D coverage, within three (3) months of their entitlement start date.
- If multiple enrollments using the “M” election type code are submitted for the same effective date, the enrollment with the latest application date will be accepted.

- The beneficiary (not newly eligible) must be enrolled in a MA or MAPD at the time of the application date and within the first three (3) months of the calendar year (January – March) to use the “M” election type code.

Dual/LIS Quarterly SEP

- A disenrollment prior to enrollment using the Dual/LIS Quarterly SEP (“L”) election type code will not count as a usage of the “L” election type code if they occur in the same quarter.
- If a beneficiary enrolls into a PDP and then enrolls into a MA Plan for the same effective date, using the “L” election code, both enrollments will be accepted.
- MARx will display the last enrollment application date on the M232 Eligibility screen, to indicate the last use of the Dual/LIS Quarterly SEP.

2. Automatic Number of Uncovered Months (NUNCMO) Resets for Low Income Beneficiaries in U.S. Territory Part D Plans

A Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug System (MARx) change will be implemented to automatically reset the NUNCMO for beneficiaries who are enrolled in a U.S. territory Part D plan, and also have a full or partial Medicaid status. A data conversion will be processed to retroactively reset the NUNCMO for current and past beneficiaries in U.S. territory Part D plans with overlapping Medicaid status. This change will be implemented in January 2020.

3. New Medicare Card Project Transition Period – MARx Reminder

During the New Medicare Card Project transition period (04/01/2018 – 12/31/2019), MA and Part D plans have been able to submit MARx transactions and search the User Interface (UI) using either the Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) or the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI).

The New Medicare Card Project transition period will end on December 31, 2019. When the transition period ends, Plans will no longer be able to use the HICN for MARx batch input or UI transactions. Data submitted containing a HICN will reject as an invalid Beneficiary ID error.