



MEDICARE DRUG & HEALTH PLAN CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION GROUP

DATE: August 8, 2019

TO: Medicare Advantage Organizations, Prescription Drug Plan Sponsors,
Section 1876 Cost Plans, and Medicare-Medicaid Plans

FROM: Kathryn A. Coleman
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SUBJECT: CMS Request for Information on Review of C-SNP-specific Chronic
Conditions

CMS announces a Request for Information (RFI) related to the review of Chronic Condition special needs plan (C-SNP) specific Chronic Conditions as mandated by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA). The RFI can be found under the Downloads section of the C-SNP webpage at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/SpecialNeedsPlans/C-SNPs.html>. CMS will accept responses until September 8, 2019 by email at: daniel.lehman@cms.hhs.gov. The RFI, entitled *Request for Information on Severe and Disabling Chronic Conditions and Enrollment in Medicare Advantage Chronic Condition Special Needs Plans (C-SNPs)*, seeks input from the public on the review and updating of the list of special needs plan (SNP) specific chronic conditions by a panel of clinical advisors to be held during the fall of 2019.

This will be the second time CMS has convened a review of chronic conditions. The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) of 2008 established the first panel of clinical advisors to determine the conditions that meet the definition of severe and disabling chronic conditions under section 1859(b)(6)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act (SSA). CMS solicited public comments on chronic conditions meeting the clarified definition and convened the SNP Chronic Condition Panel in the fall of 2008. The panelists recommended, and CMS subsequently approved, 15 SNP-specific chronic conditions. More recently, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 amended the previous requirements under SSA Section 1859(b) and instructed the Secretary of Health & Human Services to convene a new panel of clinical advisors to establish and update a list of conditions meeting criteria set within the Act.

CMS is particularly interested in the public's input on the redefinition of severe and disabling chronic conditions as amended by the BBA; the current list of severe and disabling chronic conditions; whether those conditions could be further clarified; and if there are any potential conditions missing from the list.

We encourage you to respond to this request for information and to share it with others. Comments will be used to inform the panel's review and update of the current list of qualifying chronic conditions.

The full request for information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/SpecialNeedsPlans/C-SNPs.html>. Comments will be received until 11:59PM September 8, 2019 by email at daniel.lehman@cms.hhs.gov.