

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



DATE: **March 12, 2019**

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

FROM: Jennifer R. Shapiro, Acting Director, Medicare Plan Payment Group
Center for Medicare

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Office of Information Technology

SUBJECT: Advance Announcement of the May 2019 Software Release

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to implement software improvements to the enrollment and payment systems that support Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) programs. This letter provides advanced information regarding the planned release of systems changes scheduled for May 2019.

The May 2019 software release will include the following:

1. [Monthly Membership Report \(MMR\) Data File Updates](#)
2. [Part B Premium Reduction for Employer Group Waiver Plans \(EGWPs\)](#)
3. [Changes to MARx Plan Transaction Processing](#)

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. Monthly Membership Report (MMR) Data File Updates

CMS will stop populating several outdated/obsolete data fields on the MMR. The outdated data fields will contain filler, but the file length and layout will remain the same.

2. Part B Premium Reduction for Employer Group Waiver Plans (EGWPs)

In 2017, CMS began using pre-determined benchmark Part C payment rates for EGWPs. Since EGWPs were no longer required to participate in the bid process when establishing Part C payment rates, they were not eligible to receive Medicare Advantage (MA) Rebates, such as a Part B Premium Reduction.

Beginning in 2020, CMS will give EGWPs the opportunity to offer their members a Part B Premium Reduction.

When an EGWP elects to offer Part B Premium Reduction to their members, they will be required to enter the Part B Premium Reduction amount in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS). In return, the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug System (MARx) will reduce the monthly Part C payment by the amount of the Part B Premium Reduction.

3. Changes to MARx Plan Transaction Processing

MARx will make changes to the process for which the Enterprise Identity Management (EIDM) User ID is used to send transaction files to MARx. The file header of Plan transactions will contain the submitting user's EIDM User ID. In addition, users will no longer be prompted to enter a Resource Access Control Facility (RACF) ID as part of new user registration in EIDM.

Batch Completion Status Summary (BCSS) reports will be sent back to the contract's mailbox referenced in the Plan-submitted transaction. The output filename of the BCSS will be changed to include the contract number rather than the user's RACF ID.