

## HPMS E-Mail

**Date:** May 28, 2019

**Subject:** Beneficiary Premium Withhold Update

The HPMS memo released on May 22, 2019 titled “Medicare Advantage/Prescription Drug System (MARx) June 2019 Payment – INFORMATION,” discussed an issue with the January 2019 premium withhold file. Specifically, the Social Security Administration did not process the January file that indicated which members requested to have their premiums withheld from their Social Security benefits. This resulted in Part C and Part D premiums not being withheld from members’ SSA benefit checks and therefore CMS not forwarding those premium payments to Medicare Advantage Plans and Prescription Drug Sponsors. The May 22 memo provided additional information for MA organizations and Part D sponsors in handling this situation. Additionally, we note that in this circumstance, CMS considers the initial request for Social Security Administration premium withhold as an attempt to collect plan premiums for affected beneficiaries. Plans may, but are not obligated to, pursue any further billing or collection of these plan premiums. We have posted an information sheet intended for beneficiaries on the Monthly premium for drug plans page on Medicare.gov (<https://www.medicare.gov/drug-coverage-part-d/costs-for-medicare-drug-coverage/monthly-premium-for-drug-plans>), in the “Related Resources” sidebar. The link is called “Premium withholding issue notice.” MAOs and Part D sponsors are free to use this beneficiary notice in their member communications.