



CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

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TO: All Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, 1876 Cost, and Medicare-Medicaid Plan Organizations

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SUBJECT: Contract Year 2020 Medicare Plan Finder Updates

This memo provides some important updates as we approach the October 1, 2019 launch of the Contract Year (CY) 2020 Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) on www.medicare.gov.

Star Ratings Data Release

The CY 2020 star ratings data will be released on MPF on Thursday, October 10, 2019.

Tracking MPF Suppressions and Exclusions

CMS has implemented a new Suppressions and Exclusions module in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) to assist organizations with tracking suppression and exclusion activity related to the CY 2020 MPF.

This new module can be accessed using the following navigation path:

HPMS Home Page > Plan Bids > Bene Education Suppressions and Exclusions

For the contracts assigned to their account, a user can generate a report that details a list of contracts and/or plans and their suppression or exclusion status in MPF for a given timeframe. Users may also download the report results in a .csv format.

This module tracks suppression/exclusion activity for the following:

- Bid Issue
- Contract Issue
- Contract Termination

- Cost Plan Frozen Enrollment
- Formulary Issue
- MA Network Issue
- Other Issue
- Part D Drug Pricing Issue
- Plan Correction
- Retail Pharmacy Network Issue
- Sanction

Appendix A describes the way in which a plan's display will be adjusted in the CY 2020 MPF, depending upon its suppression or exclusion status in HPMS.

To access the Bene Education Suppressions and Exclusions module, each user must have the following:

1. An active CMS user ID with HPMS access;
2. One or more contract numbers assigned to the user ID in HPMS; and the
3. Following HPMS access type assigned to the user ID:
Suppression/Exclusion - Plan View/Reports (assigned by default to each standard plan user)

General HPMS user access guidance is available at the following website:

<https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Computer-Data-and-Systems/HPMS/UserIDProcess.html>

Plan Preview Updates

The CY 2020 plan benefit and drug pricing data scheduled to be released on MPF on October 1, 2019 is now available via the HPMS plan preview functionality. CMS is **not** soliciting concur/non-concur responses at this time. Technical questions can be directed to hpms@cms.hhs.gov, while content questions can be directed to mpf@cms.hhs.gov.

It is important to note that users may see changes occur during this time period, as CMS continues to review and finalize the MPF display.

Users can access both the plan benefit and drug pricing previews via the following navigation path: *HPMS Home Page > Plan Bids > Plan Data Previews*

Update Schedule

In prior communications, CMS stated that the CY 2020 MPF would be updated on a daily basis beginning on October 1, 2019. CMS has since decided to initiate the daily update cycle in November 2019.

Throughout the month of October, MPF will be updated two times per week on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. To ensure that changes are reflected in a given update window, data updates must be completed in HPMS as follows:

Due Date for Data Updates in HPMS	Release of Updated MPF
Monday, September 30, 2019 by 6:00 p.m. ET	Wednesday, October 2, 2019
Wednesday, October 2, 2019 by 6:00 p.m. ET	Friday, October 4, 2019
Monday, October 7, 2019 by 6:00 p.m. ET	Monday, October 9, 2019
Wednesday, October 9, 2019 by 6:00 p.m. ET	Friday, October 11, 2019
Monday, October 14, 2019 by 6:00 p.m. ET	Wednesday, October 16, 2019
Wednesday, October 16, 2019 by 6:00 p.m. ET	Friday, October 18, 2019
Monday, October 21, 2019 by 6:00 p.m. ET	Wednesday, October 23, 2019
Wednesday, October 23, 2019 by 6:00 p.m. ET	Friday, October 25, 2019
Monday, October 28, 2019 by 6:00 p.m. ET	Wednesday, October 30, 2019
Wednesday, October 30, 2019 by 6:00 p.m. ET	Friday, November 1, 2019

CMS will notify organizations under separate cover on the timeframe for introducing MPF daily updates.

As described in CMS' June 7, 2019 memo entitled "Contract Year (CY) 2020 Part D Pricing Data Submission Guidance," drug pricing data will continue to be updated on a bi-weekly schedule.

Help Resources

For HPMS technical support, please contact the HPMS Help Desk at either 1-800-220-2028 or hpms@cms.hhs.gov.

For questions about HPMS user access, please contact the HPMS user access team at hpms_access@cms.hhs.gov.

For MPF questions, please contact the Office of Communications (OC) at mpf@cms.hhs.gov.

Appendix A

Action	Reason(s)	Impact on MPF Display ¹
Suppression	Part D pricing, formulary issue, and retail pharmacy issue	<p>Drug pricing data will be suppressed on the plan results, plan details, and plan comparison pages.</p> <p>Drug pricing data will be replaced with an N/A value.</p> <p>There is no impact on the plan sort.</p>
Suppression	Plan correction, bid issue, contract issue, MA network issue, and other issue - suppression	<p>Plan benefit data will be suppressed on the plan results, plan details, and plan comparison page.</p> <p>Plan benefit data will be replaced with an N/A value.</p> <p>There is no impact on the plan sort.</p>
Sanction ²	Enrollment sanction and other issue - sanction	<p>Plan will be excluded from the plan results, plan details, and plan comparison pages.</p> <p>Plan will be listed on a separate, dedicated page for sanctioned plans that only displays basic plan contact information.</p> <p>Online Enrollment Center (OEC) button will be disabled.</p>
Cost plan frozen enrollment	Cost plan frozen enrollment	OEC button will be disabled.
Exclusion	Contract termination, other issue - exclusion, or any type where exclusion is selected	Plan will be excluded from all areas of MPF.

¹ If a beneficiary logs in via the authenticated search and is enrolled in one of these plans, they will see the plan benefit and drug pricing data without these actions applied.

² At this time, CMS is using actions identified as “other issue - sanction” to apply the sanction suppression rules to the MPF display. The “sanction” action is currently reflecting the data provided to the MARx system for operational purposes. CMS will adjust this functionality in the future.