



OFFICE OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INFORMATION (ORDI)

Date: July 27, 2006

To: All Medicare Advantage Organizations

From: Timothy P. Love
Director

Subject: Release of Medicare Health Outcomes Survey 2003-2005 Cohort 6 Performance Measurement Reports in HPMS.

On behalf of the entire Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) Team, I am pleased to announce the distribution of the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey *2003-2005 Cohort 6 Performance Measurement Report* for all participating Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans.

A new Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS[®])¹ Measure is included in the 2003-2005 Performance Measurement Report.

The report includes a new section on questions related to physical activity that were incorporated into the HOS instrument for the first time in 2005.

- Two questions about physical activity were added to support a new HEDIS measure. This new measure, Physical Activity in Older Adults, is a part of the Effectiveness of Care domain of HEDIS. The plan, state, CMS Region, and national HOS results for the new HEDIS measure can be found in section (E) of this report.

The performance measurement report also includes: Reader's Guide, Executive Summary, Healthy Days Measures, Urinary Incontinence (UI) in Older Adults, National Trends, Program Background, Methodology, Participating Plans, Definitions of Key Terms, HOS Partners, as well as plan level Supplemental Figures. A feedback form has been provided to identify questions or comments about this report.

CMS is encouraging each MA Plan to examine their data results. The two-year performance measurement results are intended to provide information for each MA Plan to use in designing an improved health care delivery system to better meet the needs of the beneficiaries in the plan's service area. This report provides performance measurement results for the sixth time since the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey was introduced as a HEDIS[®] measure in 1998. The HOS is an effectiveness of care component of HEDIS that measures a health plan's ability to maintain or improve the physical and mental health of its Medicare beneficiaries over time.

¹ HEDIS[®] is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

All distribution occurs electronically to participating plans through the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) and to participating Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) through the QualityNet Exchange application. In addition, QIOs can access their HOS reports, as well as reports for all plans in their state, via HPMS. The HOS Performance Measurement reports are available in HPMS for *Cohorts 1–6*. The HOS Baseline reports are available in HPMS for *Cohorts 4–8*.

Please note that if your MA Plan did not participate in *2003-2005 Cohort 6 Performance Measurement*, there is no MA Plan specific report for your plan.

For a general overview of the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey program, visit CMS' new HOS web address (www.cms.hhs.gov/hos). A full description of the HOS program that includes links to research data files, data user's guides, and additional information can be found at www.hosonline.org.