



MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT AND C&D DATA GROUP

DATE: July 24, 2013

TO: Medicare-Medicaid Plans

FROM: Cynthia G. Tudor, Ph.D., Director

SUBJECT: Information Regarding CY 2014 Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) Submissions by Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs)

The purpose of this memo is to announce a delay for pending Medicare-Medicaid Plan (MMP) contracts' submissions of biweekly Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) data, to reiterate upcoming MPF test data submission periods, and to clarify data requirements specific for MMP contracts.

As a reminder, MMP contracts are required to submit drug pricing data to be displayed on the MPF tool on www.medicare.gov. This process involves submissions of test data as well as biweekly submissions of drug pricing data. Submitted pricing data will go through quality assurance analyses to identify outliers or potential data errors. These identified outliers will be communicated to each contract.

Given the mid-2014 target start dates for MMP enrollment in most states, MMP contract information (with the exception of MMP contracts in Massachusetts) for CY 2014 will not appear in MPF starting in October 2013. Instead, MMP contract information will display in MPF starting later in 2013 or in 2014 depending on the marketing and enrollment start dates for MMPs in each state. We will therefore delay the start of the biweekly drug pricing data submissions for MMP contracts (except MMP contracts in Massachusetts) until closer to the display date. We will provide more specific guidance on the MPF timelines for MMP contracts closer to each state's demonstration start date.

However, this flexibility of schedules means that MMP contracts will not have an additional opportunity to test their pricing files prior to beginning the required biweekly pricing data submissions either later this year or in 2014, dependent on each state's schedule [for implementation](#). If there are errors with the pricing files that cannot be corrected prior to the scheduled display of MMP contract information in MPF, information for that MMP contract will be suppressed in MPF until the data issues are resolved. Therefore, we strongly encourage MMP contracts to take advantage of upcoming test data submissions process. The next MPF Pricing Data test submission period is Thursday, July 25 to Friday July 26, 2013. The final test submission period is Thursday, August 22 to Friday, August 23, 2013.

We also clarify that MMP contracts will submit drug pricing data for Part D drugs only. For CY 2014, any other drugs covered by MMP contracts pursuant to Medicaid coverage requirements (e.g., drugs on the Additional Demonstration Drug, or ADD, file) will not be included in the drug pricing files.

For more information about the pricing file requirements, please refer to the CY 2014 Pricing Data Guidelines located at http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/RxContracting_FormularyGuidance.html in the download called “2014 Pricing Data Guidelines and Calendar (V04.30.13).” Organizations may also contact the DRx help desk for additional information. DRx’s help desk information is plancompare@drx.com or 888-203-8497. The DRx help desk is available between the hours of 8:30AM – 6:30PM ET.

Please refer also to our June 14, 2013 HPMS memorandum entitled “Sponsors’ Access to the Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) Communications Website” for more information about obtaining access to the MPF tool.