

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



**CENTER FOR MEDICARE**

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**DATE:** October 25, 2013

**TO:** All Medicare Advantage Organizations

**FROM:** Cynthia Tudor, Ph.D., Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

**SUBJECT:** Availability of Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) *2010-2012 Cohort 13 Performance Measurement* Electronic Data

On behalf of the entire Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) Team, I am pleased to provide notification that the Medicare HOS *2010-2012 Cohort 13 Performance Measurement* beneficiary level data are available for those organizations which continue to participate in the Medicare Advantage program.

The Medicare HOS *2010-2012 Cohort 13 Performance Measurement* Electronic Data File and accompanying documentation are the twelfth release of beneficiary level HOS data to individual Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs). The HOS data are intended to support MAO quality improvement activities and initiatives. Since the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) also uses the data for MAO program oversight, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of General Counsel has advised that neither the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 nor the Privacy Act preclude release of HOS data to MAOs.

Due to the extremely sensitive nature of these data, CMS previously consulted with industry representatives to identify an efficient process for disseminating the data while ensuring their security and confidentiality. As a result, each participating MAO may obtain their data from the Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) by contacting the HOS Information and Technical Support via email at [hos@azqio.sdps.org](mailto:hos@azqio.sdps.org). Please provide your organization's designated recipient of the data, your plan's address, return telephone number, and CMS contract number(s). The data are available for distribution to MAOs at no cost and will be provided on CD-ROM formatted as a CSV (comma separated values file).

If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact HSAG through the HOS Information and Technical Support email address listed above or by telephone at (888) 800-0077. For policy or program concerns related to the HOS-M, please email [hos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:hos@cms.hhs.gov). For a general overview of the Medicare HOS program, visit the CMS HOS website at [www.cms.gov/hos](http://www.cms.gov/hos). A full description of the HOS program that includes links to research data files, data user's guides, uses of the HOS data, and additional information may be found at [www.HOSonline.org](http://www.HOSonline.org).