

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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MEDICARE-MEDICAID COORDINATION OFFICE

DATE: October 19, 2020

TO: South Carolina Medicare-Medicaid Plans

FROM: Lindsay P. Barnette
Director, Models, Demonstrations, and Analysis Group

SUBJECT: South Carolina MMPs: Additional Reporting Requirements for 2021 CAHPS® Measures

Under the capitated financial alignment model, Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) are required to conduct/report the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey annually consistent with Medicare requirements (2021 CAHPS requirements are further outlined in HPMS memos dated September 8, 2020 and October 2, 2020). MMPs with 600 or more enrollees as of July 1, 2020 are required to contract with CMS-approved Medicare Advantage (MA) and Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) CAHPS survey vendors to conduct data collection for CY 2021.

Under the MA program, plans generally have an opportunity to add supplemental items to the MA & PDP CAHPS Survey instrument; these supplemental items are subject to CMS approval and are generally limited to a total of twelve (12) questions in order to ensure the highest possible response rate to the CAHPS survey. However, the ability to include plan-specific supplemental items is limited for MMPs under the capitated financial alignment model.

All MMPs are required to include ten (10) additional questions that have been identified by the independent evaluator, RTI, in order to assist with the evaluation. MMPs failing to collect and submit the ten (10) required evaluation supplemental items will be subject to compliance action.

MMPs participating in the South Carolina capitated financial alignment model demonstration will be able to include up to four (4) additional questions beyond those that CMS and RTI are requiring, if so interested. Interested MMPs should work with their contracted CAHPS vendor regarding next steps (e.g., to narrow down the list of previously submitted plan-specific supplemental questions).

Please contact the MMCO at mmcocapsmodel@cms.hhs.gov if you have any questions about the contents of this memorandum.