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DATE: December 19, 2022

TO: All Part C and D Plan Sponsors

FROM: Amy Larrick Chavez-Valdez
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SUBJECT: Part C and D Star Ratings Tukey Outlier Deletion Simulations

In the final rule “Medicare Program; Contract Year 2021 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage Program, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program, and Medicare Cost Plan Program” (CMS-4190-F), published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2020 (the CY 2021 Final Rule)¹, CMS finalized the addition of Tukey outer fence outlier deletion to the clustering methodology beginning with the 2024 Part C and D Star Ratings. We finalized applying Tukey outlier deletion prior to mean resampling and hierarchical clustering for non- Medicare Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) measures and measures that have been in the Star Ratings program for more than three years (85 FR 33832–33836).

We are now providing simulations of Tukey outlier deletion with mean resampling and guardrails for the 2022 and 2023 Star Ratings. As we stated in the CY 2021 Final Rule, for the first year that Tukey outlier deletion is implemented (2024 Star Ratings), we will rerun the prior year’s thresholds using mean resampling and Tukey outlier deletion so that guardrails will be applied consistently between years. Therefore, in the simulations, the 2022 Star Ratings thresholds were recalculated applying mean resampling and Tukey outlier deletion.

The Tukey outlier deletion simulations and Technical Notes are available to view on the CMS.gov website on this page: <http://go.cms.gov/partcanddstarratings>. Please email any questions on the Part C and D Star Ratings Tukey outlier deletion simulations to PartCandDStarRatings@cms.hhs.gov.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensure the success of the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug programs.

¹ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-06-02/pdf/2020-11342.pdf>