

HPMS E-Mail

Date: September 21, 2010

To: Part C and D Compliance Officers

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

Subject: Use of Plan Ratings Preview Data

The data included as part of the Plan Ratings preview which began on September 15th are considered by CMS to be draft data. While we expect that the data that are posted in the preview will become final, there is the possibility that an error in a calculation could be found at some point during the preview period, either by a health or drug plan or by CMS. If that were to occur, then the possibility exists that your summary or overall rating would change as a result. Because these data are draft, CMS suggests that plans not incorporate these ratings into their marketing materials until such time as they are final.

Plan sponsors must provide the plan ratings template (which is generated from HPMS), and include it in their enrollment kits, using the prior year's template information until such time as the template for the following contract year is made available. Once the current year's plan performance rating template is available and final, plan sponsors may update the enrollment kit to ensure the most up-to-date plan performance ratings are provided to current and prospective enrollees. Plan rating information may not be altered relative to information on www.medicare.gov. Use of these data for marketing purposes must adhere to CMS marketing guidelines.