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DATE: May 30, 2014

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations

FROM: Amy K. Larrick, Acting Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: 2013 Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) Baseline and Medicare HOS-Modified (HOS-M) Reports

On behalf of the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) Team, I am pleased to announce the availability of the following reports and data for participating Medicare managed care plans:

- *2013 Medicare HOS Cohort 16 Baseline Report*
- *2013 Medicare HOS-Modified Report*

Medicare HOS Version 2.5

The *Medicare HOS 2013 Cohort 16 Baseline Report* includes results from the Medicare HOS version 2.5, as implemented for Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) by CMS in the spring of 2013. The HOS 2.5 evaluates physical and mental health status using the Veterans RAND 12-Item Health Survey. Use of this instrument reduces beneficiary burden while maintaining comparability of HOS results over time.

2013 Cohort 16 Baseline Report

The HOS Baseline Report is intended to assist MAOs in identifying opportunities for improvement of their HOS results. The information is displayed so as to indicate where beneficiaries are doing poorly and subgroups are identified where the MAO performance differs from the national average. Information on the HOS HEDIS[®] measures utilized in the Medicare Star Ratings is also included.

Use of HOS Data

CMS is encouraging each MAO to work in collaboration with their Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) to examine their results. The QIOs receive all of the MAO findings and the corresponding patient specific HOS data sets for their state(s) in order to support their quality improvement activities with the MAOs. Readers may visit the HOS website at www.HOSonline.org for webinars and other information addressing how the HOS data can be used for quality improvement activities and for additional resources to help MAOs use their HOS results to target quality improvement activities.

The HOS Baseline Report is intended to provide information for each MAO to use in designing an improved health care delivery system to better meet the needs of the beneficiaries in the plan. Aggregate and state level information is provided to each MAO in their report for their own internal review.

Each MAO report zip file also includes a summary data file that contains contract-level responses to each HOS question, as well as demographic data related to the report. HOS summary measures from each report that are used in the Medicare Part C Star Ratings are also included in this file.

2013 Medicare HOS-Modified Report

The HOS-M, which is an abbreviated version of the Medicare HOS, assesses the physical and mental health functioning of enrollees in Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Organizations to generate information for payment adjustment.

The HOS-M Report focuses on specialized plans serving frail and elderly beneficiaries, and provides a summary of demographic information, physical and mental health status, and selected health status measures. Additionally, in each respective plan report, the health status of the plan's frail and elderly enrollees is compared to the combined Medicare HOS-M sample averages (HOS-M Total). CMS encourages each participating PACE Organization to examine their results for use in quality improvement activities.

Distribution of Reports

Distribution occurs electronically to participating MAOs and PACE Organizations through the Health Plan Management System (HPMS). The HOS Baseline Reports are disseminated to participating QIOs through the QualityNet Secure Portal. In addition, QIOs can access their HOS reports, as well as reports for all MAOs in their state, via HPMS. The HOS Baseline Reports are available in HPMS for *Cohorts 13-16*. The HOS-M reports are available in HPMS for years 2010-2013.

Please note that if your MAO did not participate in the *2013 Cohort 16 Baseline*, there are no MAO specific reports for your organization.

For a general overview of the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey program, visit the CMS HOS website at www.cms.gov/hos. You may submit technical inquiries to hos@azqio.sdps.org, or contact Health Services Advisory Group through the HOS Information and Technical Support telephone line at (888) 880-0077. HOS program and policy questions may be addressed to hos@cms.hhs.gov.