



OFFICE OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INFORMATION

Date: August 1, 2007

To: All Medicare Advantage Organizations

From: Timothy P. Love
Director

Subject: Release of Medicare Health Outcomes Survey 2006 Cohort 9 Baseline Reports
and 2004-2006 Cohort 7 Performance Measurement Reports in HPMS

On behalf of the entire Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) Team, I am pleased to announce the distribution of the following reports for all participating Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans:

- Medicare HOS *2006 Cohort 9 Baseline Report*: August 31, 2007
- Medicare HOS *2004-2006 Cohort 7 Performance Measurement Report*: August 31, 2007

MEDICARE HOS VERSION 2.0

In the spring of 2006, CMS implemented the Medicare HOS 2.0 for MA Plans. The HOS 2.0 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. Changes in the HOS 2.0 from the original HOS measure include a reduction in outcome items (from 36 items to 12 items), a reduction in other items (three questions removed), and the addition of two new Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS®)¹ measures. Height and weight questions were also added for the calculation of Body Mass Index.

2006 Cohort 9 Baseline Report

The baseline report includes, but is not limited to: a Reader's Guide, Program Highlights, Executive Summary, Uses of HOS Data, Recommended Use of Results, Physical and Mental Component Summary Scores, General and Comparative Health, a Depression Screen, Chronic Medical Conditions, Impaired Activities of Daily Living, Healthy Days, Clinical Measures, Urinary Incontinence in Older Adults, Physical Activity in Older Adults, Program Background, Methodology and Design, as well as Frequencies for the 2006 Cohort 9 Baseline survey fields.

¹ HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

The results of the two new Effectiveness of Care HEDIS measures, osteoporosis testing and fall risk management, are also included in the 2006 Baseline Report. Results for all plans in the state, as well as state, CMS Region and National HOS results, for the new HEDIS measures can be found in the NCQA HEDIS Measures section of the report.

- One question about a bone density test was added to support the new HEDIS measure, **Osteoporosis Testing in Older Women**.
- Three questions about falls in the elderly were added to support the new HEDIS measure, **Fall Risk Management**.

2004-2006 Cohort 7 Performance Measurement Report

The 2004-2006 Cohort 7 Performance Measurement Report presents results for health plans based on data from the Medicare HOS 2004 Cohort 7 Baseline and 2006 Cohort 7 Follow Up surveys. The HOS performance measurement results describe change in health status over time for beneficiaries in your state.

The 2004-2006 Cohort 7 Performance Measurement Report also includes a Reader's Guide, Executive Summary, Baseline and Follow Up information for key health indicators such as, Physical and Mental Component Change Scores, General and Comparative Health Status, and Body Mass Index, as well as Recommended Use of Results, Methodology, and Frequencies for the 2006 Cohort 7 Follow Up survey fields.

This report provides performance measurement results for the seventh time since the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey was introduced as a HEDIS[®] measure in 1998. The HOS is an effectiveness of care component of HEDIS that measures a health plan's ability to maintain or improve the physical and mental health of its Medicare beneficiaries over time.

USES OF HOS DATA

CMS is encouraging each MA Plan to work in collaboration with their Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) to examine their results. "Uses of HOS Data" is a new section in both the Baseline and Performance Measurement Reports that directs readers to the HOS website for webinars addressing how HOS data may be used for quality improvement activities. Additionally, a new section in the Baseline report, "Recommended Use of Results," provides an example of how plans may use their results to target quality improvement activities.

The baseline and two-year performance measurement results are intended to provide information for each MA Plan to use in designing an improved health care delivery system to better meet the needs of the beneficiaries in the plan's service area.

DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS

All distribution occurs electronically to participating plans through the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) and to participating QIOs through the QualityNet Exchange application. In addition, QIOs can access their HOS reports, as well as reports for all plans in their state, via HPMS. The HOS Performance Measurement reports are available in HPMS for *Cohorts 1–7*. The HOS Baseline reports are available in HPMS for *Cohorts 4–9*.

Please note that if your MA Plan did not participate in the 2006 Cohort 9 Baseline or 2004-2006 Cohort 7 Performance Measurement, there are no MA Plan specific reports for your plan.

For a general overview of the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey program, visit CMS' HOS web address (www.cms.hhs.gov/hos).