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TO: Medicare Compliance Officer, Part C and D Sponsors

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

SUBJECT: First Plan Preview of 2012 Part C and D Plan Ratings Data

DATE: August 3rd, 2011

This memo is to inform Part C and D sponsors that they can preview their Plan Ratings data in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) prior to display on the Medicare Plan Finder (MPF). The first plan preview will be held from August 5-12, 2011. Medicare beneficiaries will be able to view these Plan Ratings via the MPF on www.medicare.gov in October. The Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) data will not be available during this preview and star rating assignments will not be made for this preview.

Please note that data for both Part C and D Plan Ratings will be available for the first plan preview.

- To access the Part C Plan Ratings preview in HPMS, from the left navigation bar select: “Quality and Performance”, then “Part C Performance Metrics”, then “Part C Report Card Master Table” and then select 2012 for the report period.
- To access the Part D Plan Ratings preview, from the left navigation bar select: “Quality and Performance”, then “Part D Performance Metrics and Reports”, then “Part D Report Card Master Table” and then select 2012 for the report period.
- Technical notes for Part C and D are available via the “Technical Notes” link found on the “Summary View” tab of the Master Tables.

Changes to plan preview and Plan Ratings:

- 1) As described on the July 27th User Group Call, changes to the 2012 Plan Ratings include the addition of new measures, retirement of measures, and CMS’ designation of additional 4-star thresholds. Please refer to the Technical Notes for details about these changes.
- 2) Sponsors will be able to view numerator and denominator data used to calculate certain measures.
- 3) The 2012 Technical Notes document encompasses both Part C and D Plan Ratings information.

During this first plan preview, CMS expects Part C and D sponsors to closely review the methodology and their posted data for each measure. Sponsors should immediately alert CMS of any suspected data issues or errors in order to allow sufficient time to investigate and process any necessary data corrections.

Please email comments or questions to the appropriate mailbox:

Part C Measures: PartCRatings@cms.hhs.gov

Part D Measures: PartDMetrics@cms.hhs.gov

Please include “Plan Preview #1” and a Contract ID in the subject line. Comments and questions will be addressed on a rolling basis and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on August 12, 2011.

There will be a second Part C and D plan preview at the end of August that will display data for all the measures and will include any revisions made as a result of the first plan preview. In addition, based on this complete dataset, CMS’ preliminary star ratings for each measure, domain, summary score, and overall score will be displayed.

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