



**CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

---

**DATE:** January 5, 2024

**TO:** All Current and Prospective Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, Section 1876 Cost, PACE, and Demonstration Organizations

**FROM:** Vanessa S. Duran, Acting Director  
Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

**SUBJECT:** Contract Year (CY) 2025 Plan Benefit Package (PBP) Industry Testing

This memo provides technical guidance for the upcoming CY 2025 PBP module and application programming interface (API) testing activities.

PBP API Testing

Starting on **January 8, 2024**, plan and consultant users may begin testing the CY 2025 PBP API on HPMS production.

Comments on the PBP API must be submitted via the following website:

<https://877fp303.optimalworkshop.com/questions/807ae323cdeca5eab6e3982c1d333c60>

All plan organizations and consultants must use the HPMS API Key Management module to request, generate, and manage HPMS API keys. To perform PBP API testing against the sandbox region, plan and bid consultant users must submit API key requests for the PBP sandbox API scopes.

Users should refer to the Documentation section of the HPMS landing page at <https://hpms.cms.gov> for the following technical guidance:

- HPMS API Key Management User Guide
- HPMS Plan API Documentation
- PBP CY 2025 JSON Mapping
- PBP CY 2025 API Documentation

For API technical support, please contact [hpmstechsupport@softrams.com](mailto:hpmstechsupport@softrams.com).

## PBP Module Testing

Starting on **January 8, 2024**, plan and consultant users may begin *previewing* the CY 2025 PBP in the PBP Sandbox module on HPMS production. While users will have full access to the PBP functionality, CMS is treating this as a preview window, as industry comments will not be collected. This functionality will be temporarily disabled starting at 5:00 p.m. ET on Friday, February 2, 2024 to prepare the module for the formal test period.

Beginning on **February 5, 2024**, plan and consultant users may begin formal CY 2025 testing in the PBP Sandbox on HPMS production. The test window will end on **February 23, 2024**.

CMS will disseminate the URL for submitting PBP module testing comments under separate cover.

The PBP Sandbox module is available under the User Resources menu. Plan and bid consultant users must submit a request to obtain access. There are three access types available by request:

Access Type Name	Description
<b>PBP Sandbox Data Entry</b>	Allows designated plan and bid consultant users to perform data entry in the PBP Sandbox module for their assigned contract numbers.
<b>PBP Sandbox View-Only</b>	Provides designated plan and bid consultant users with read-only access to the PBP Sandbox module for their assigned contract numbers.
<b>PBP Sandbox Reports</b>	Provides designated plan and bid consultant users with access to the PBP Sandbox module reports for their assigned contract numbers.

### To obtain module access as a direct plan employee:

- The plan organization must send an email to the [hpms\\_access@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:hpms_access@cms.hhs.gov) mailbox requesting the assignment of one or more of the PBP sandbox access types described above. This email must include the user name(s), CMS user ID(s), organization name, and contract number(s) for which this access is needed.

### To obtain module access as a bid consultant:

- The sponsoring plan organization must follow the routine instructions for establishing a bid consultant user in HPMS, as outlined in the HPMS memo sent on February 17, 2023 entitled “Instructions for Requesting Consultant Access to the Health Plan Management System (HPMS).”
- If the bid consultant user needs the ability to access the new PBP Sandbox module, the sponsoring plan organization must clearly request the assignment of one or more of the PBP sandbox access types in the official letter.

Below is a recap of the PBP testing schedule:

Date	Event
January 8, 2024	Start of CY 2025 PBP API testing.
January 8, 2024	Start of CY 2025 PBP module preview for plan and consultant users.
February 5 - 23, 2024	Formal CY 2025 PBP industry test window.

We strongly encourage the submission of your API and module testing comments as soon as possible so that they can be considered for the production release in early April 2024.

Please contact the HPMS Help Desk at either [hpms@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:hpms@cms.hhs.gov) or 1-800-220-2028 for questions about CY 2025 PBP testing.