

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



CENTER FOR MEDICARE

DATE: September 28, 2023

TO: All Prescription Drug Plans, Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug Plans, Section 1876 Cost Plans, and PACE plans

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

SUBJECT: Corrections to the Year of Service (YOS) 2021 Polypharmacy: Use of Multiple Central-Nervous System - Active Medications in Older Adults (Poly-CNS) Measure Final Rates

This memorandum informs Part D sponsors of corrections to the final YOS 2021 Poly-CNS rates on the 2023 Display Page. As a reminder, starting with the 2021 measurement year, the Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) updated the specifications for the Poly-CNS measure to exclude beneficiaries with a seizure disorder diagnosis during the measurement year. Additionally, the PQA added the serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRIs) and antiepileptics to the Poly-CNS measure medication list.

Recently, we conducted a thorough analysis of the Poly-CNS and the Polypharmacy: Use of Multiple Anticholinergic (ACH) Medications in Older Adults (Poly-ACH) display measures and found that the medication lists for the two Polypharmacy measures included a blank space between the medication active ingredient and salt names. The active ingredient and salt names were incorrectly counted as two medications instead of one. Therefore, we updated the programming for the two Polypharmacy measures rates to correctly count medication names with a blank space between the active ingredient and salt names as one medication. This issue did not impact any other Part D Patient Safety measures.

The corrective action was retroactively implemented for the Polypharmacy measures back to YOS 2021 data. This issue did not impact the Poly-ACH final measure rates. However, sponsors may notice a small decrease (improvement) in their Poly-CNS final measure rates. The corrected YOS 2021 Poly-CNS Patient Safety reports (which replace the reports distributed in July 2022) will be uploaded to the [Patient Safety Web Portal](#) on September 29, 2023. Subsequently, CMS plans to update the YOS 2021 Poly-CNS measure final rates (2023 display measure) on the CMS.gov website under [Part C and D Performance Data](#) and in HPMS on October 30, 2023.

If you have questions, or need help accessing the reports, you may contact Acumen at PatientSafety@acumenllc.com. If you have any questions or concerns about CMS policies regarding Part D performance and quality measures, please contact CMS at PartCandDStarRatings@cms.hhs.gov.