



MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT AND C&D DATA GROUP

TO: Medicare Compliance Officers, Part C & D Sponsors

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SUBJECT: Simulated Star Ratings Data Available in HPMS

DATE: February 24, 2014

This memo is to notify plan sponsors that simulated Star Ratings data are now available in HPMS showing the impact of removing the pre-determined 4-star thresholds for each contract. As you know, CMS has been exploring different methods to improve the precision of the Star Ratings. Based on extensive analyses of several options, CMS is considering the elimination of pre-determined 4-star thresholds starting with the 2016 Star Ratings. These simulated data use this alternative methodology and are posted in HPMS for informational purposes only. Similar information-only results will be generated and posted in HPMS for contracts once the 2015 Star Ratings data are available. To see the trends in Star Ratings cut-points over time, use this link: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/PrescriptionDrugCovGenIn/PerformanceData.html>.

Instructions for Accessing the 2014 Simulated Data

- To access the Part C Simulated Star Ratings 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 "2014-Simulation" for the report period.
- To access the Part D Simulated Star Ratings in HPMS, 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 "2014-Simulation" for the report period.
- The technical notes for the simulated data are available via the "Technical Notes" link found on each page in the Master Table modules. The document change log contains the list of differences from the final 2014 Star Ratings Technical Notes.

Comments or questions about Part C Star Ratings should be sent to PartCRatings@cms.hhs.gov. Comments or questions about Part D Star Ratings should be sent to PartDMetrics@cms.hhs.gov. Again, the data displayed in HPMS are for informational purposes only.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring the success of the Medicare health and prescription drug programs.