

Applicability of Machine-Readable Standards to Off-Exchange SADPs

Q: Are issuers applying for certification of Stand-alone Dental Plans (SADPs) that will not be sold through a Federally-facilitated Marketplace (FFM) required to meet the requirements to make available machine-readable provider directories under the Network Adequacy standards at 45 CFR 156.230, as outlined in the HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2016 (80 FR 10750)?

A: 45 CFR 156.230 specifies Network Adequacy requirements for QHPs, including SADPs. Starting in 2016, these requirements include publishing an up-to-date, accurate and complete provider directory that includes information on which providers are accepting new patients, the provider's location, contact information, specialty, medical group and any institutional affiliations, in a manner that is easily accessible to plan enrollees, prospective enrollees, the State, the Marketplace, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Additionally, a QHP issuer in an FFM must make this information available on the issuer's Web site in an HHS-specified format and also submit this information to HHS, in a format and manner and at times determined by HHS.

Since Exchange-certified SADPs that will not be offered through an FFM will not have their provider directories displayed on www.HealthCare.gov, issuers of such SADPs will not need to submit provider directories to HHS in the same format and manner, and at the same time as SADPs that will be offered through the FFMs. The format and manner required for these SADPs will be addressed separately. All other Network Adequacy requirements for QHP certification continue to apply, except for any requirement that cannot be met because the plan covers only limited scope dental benefits.