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DATE: December 26, 2017

TO: Medicare Advantage and §1876 Cost Contract Quality Contacts, and Compliance Officers

FROM: Jennifer R. Shapiro, Acting Director
Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: HEDIS® 2018 Patient-Level Data File Submission Information

CMS Requirements

As part of the HEDIS reporting requirements described in the August 2017 HPMS Memo entitled, “Reporting Requirements for 2018 HEDIS, HOS, and CAHPS Measures,” CMS requires Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) and §1876 Cost Contracts to submit both HEDIS summary-level and patient-level data. This memo provides further information related to the HEDIS 2018 Patient-Level Data (PLD) file submission for the 2017 measurement year.

Medicare HEDIS summary-level data and HEDIS PLD files must be validated and submitted in accordance with the data submission instructions posted on www.cms.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, on Friday, June 15, 2018. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will not consider any reason for submissions or corrections after June 15, 2018.

If a contract had zero enrolled for the entire 2017 measurement period, the contract does not have to submit HEDIS PLD files.

CMS placed current versions of the HEDIS 2018 PLD instructional documents at: <http://go.cms.gov/plandata> under the “Downloads” section, near the bottom of the page.

Contracts that fail to submit error-free HEDIS PLD files by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, on June 15, 2018, will receive one star in each of the 2019 Star Ratings measures included in the file. The measures per file are:

HEDIS PLD File 1 (MA & 1876 Cost contracts):

- Breast Cancer Screening (BCS)
- Colorectal Cancer Screening (COL)
- Adult BMI Assessment (ABA)
- Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture (OMW)
- Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC) – Eye Exam
- Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC) – Medical Attention of Nephropathy

- Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC) – HbA1c poor control (>9.0%)
- Controlling High Blood Pressure (CBP)
- Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug Therapy for Rheumatoid Arthritis (ART)
- Medication Reconciliation Post-Discharge (MRP)

HEDIS PLD File 2 (MA contracts only):

- Plan All-Cause Readmissions (PCR)

The reduction policy includes contracts that submit files with internal identifiers instead of HICNs. We understand that there will be cases where contracts may have erroneous or outdated HICNs for a few enrollees. We will not penalize contracts for these one-off issues. However, the reduction to one star would be applied when contracts do not submit valid HICNs for the majority of their enrollees.

HEDIS PLD Resources

CMS posted current versions of the HEDIS 2018 PLD file instructional documents at: <http://go.cms.gov/plandata> under the “Downloads” section, near the bottom of the page. Here is a list of the documents that are posted:

1. HEDIS 2018 PLD File Specifications, File 1 of 2 (2017 Measurement Year)
2. HEDIS 2018 PLD File Specifications, File 2 of 2 (2017 Measurement Year)
3. HEDIS 2018 PLD Instructions File 1 of 2 (2017 Measurement Year)
4. HEDIS 2018 PLD Instructions File 2 of 2 (2017 Measurement Year)
5. HEDIS 2017 to 2018 PLD File Specifications Crosswalk
6. HEDIS 2018 PLD Summary Submission Instructions (2017 Measurement Year)

Use all of the HEDIS documents on <http://go.cms.gov/plandata> to produce your MY 2017 HEDIS PLD files for data submission. Be sure to inform your NCQA-Certified HEDIS Compliance Auditor and any third-party vendor submitting these data on your behalf about the instructions on <http://go.cms.gov/plandata>. Use the crosswalk file to identify changes from HEDIS 2017 to HEDIS 2018.

MA Contract HEDIS Patient-Level Data Submission to CMS

All contracts must submit their MY 2017 HEDIS PLD data files into the secure CMS Enterprise File Transfer (EFT) infrastructure using an existing Gentran, MFT Internet, or Connect:Direct account which is currently used to submit other beneficiary specific information to CMS. Contracts will use their existing EFT method to upload their HEDIS 2018 data using the file naming conventions that are specified in the HEDIS 2018 PLD file submission instructions.

If your organization uses the services of a third-party vendor to do the EFT, notify them about the HEDIS 2018 data submission requirements so that they can successfully submit your PLD files on your behalf. All contracts or their third-party vendors should submit the HEDIS PLD files from May 29, 2018 through 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, on June 15, 2018. In the event a HEDIS PLD file does not pass validation, you should immediately inform your vendor that they

may successfully submit the corrected file by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on Friday, June 15, 2018.

Scope InfoTech, Inc., the CMS contractor for HEDIS PLD, will access your submitted data through the same secure system to complete the validation of the data files. It is required that someone in your MA organization is designated as a “Point of Contact” (POC). Your designated POC will be issued an ID and will have to create a password to see the status of your HEDIS PLD via the secure portal at <https://mapld.scopeinfotechinc.com>. As CMS’ contractor, Scope Infotech, Inc., is accountable for adhering to Federal laws and regulations regarding security and confidentiality of personally identifiable information and protected health information.

CMS recommends that your designated POC follow the steps in the HEDIS 2018 PLD File Submission Instructions to grant secure portal access to another person in your MA organization to be a back-up POC to the designated POC. Your MA organization should share with CMS the name of the designated POC and back-up POC to Scope InfoTech, Inc. at:

MA_patient_data@scopeinfotechinc.com.

For questions about the 2018 HEDIS PLD File Specifications, Data Submission Instructions and other related matters to: MA_patient_data@scopeinfotechinc.com.

Testing HEDIS PLD Submissions to CMS

CMS is requiring that all contracts participate in a dry run to ensure that connectivity is in place and that files are formatted correctly to ensure a successful submission. If your contract has any issues participating in the dry run, please send your inquiries to Scope InfoTech, Inc. at MA_patient_data@scopeinfotechinc.com by April 10, 2018 for guidance.

Non-participation in the dry run will not affect your Star Ratings.

All contracts or their third-party vendors should submit their HEDIS PLD data for the dry run from April 2, 2018 through May 4, 2018 through the EFT.

The dry run is for verifying the EFT connectivity and for finding programming or logic errors prior to the official PLD file submission for HEDIS 2018. The HEDIS portal URL for the dry run will be different from the HEDIS portal URL for the official file submission beginning May 29, 2018. The HEDIS PLD portal URL for the dry run will be shared with the MA organizational plan members in March 2018 before the dry run starts on April 2, 2018. For more information about providing a test file for the dry run, read the “Patient-Level Data Submission Overview” section of the Submission Instructions or contact Ma_patient_data@scopeinfotechinc.com.

As part of the submission of the HEDIS 2018 PLD data, it is critical to ensure that the HEDIS 2018 PLD matches the HEDIS 2018 summary-level data. If you have questions about the HEDIS 2018 summary-level data submission, please contact your HEDIS account manager at NCQA.

For questions about this memorandum, please email HEDISquestions@cms.hhs.gov.