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DATE: January 17, 2017

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

FROM: Amy Larrick Chavez-Valdez, Director
Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: HEDIS 2017 Patient-Level Data (PLD) Submission Information (corrected link)

CMS Requirements

Medicare Advantage (MA) and §1876 Cost contracts that are required to report HEDIS 2017 summary-level data for the 2016 measurement year (MY) must also provide the HEDIS patient-level data used to calculate the summary-level results for each contract.

Medicare HEDIS summary-level data and HEDIS PLD files are due by midnight eastern time on Thursday, June 15, 2017.

Note: If a contract had no enrollment for the entire 2016 measurement period, the contract does not have to report the HEDIS PLD files.

HEDIS PLD files must be submitted and validated by Thursday, June 15, 2017 midnight EDT. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will not consider any reason for submissions or corrections after June 15, 2017.

Contracts that fail to submit error-free HEDIS PLD files by the submission deadline will receive one star for each of the 2018 Star Ratings measures with invalid data. The Star Ratings 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).

HEDIS PLD File 2 (MA contracts only):

- Plan All-Cause Readmissions (PCR)

Contracts that submit files with internal identifiers instead of Health Insurance Claim Numbers (HICNs) will also receive one star for the impacted measures. We understand that there will be cases where contracts may have erroneous or out-dated 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 placed current versions of the 2017 HEDIS PLD file documents at:

<http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/MCRAAdvPartDEnrolData/index.html> under the “Downloads” section, near the bottom of the page.

- 2017 Patient-level file specifications, File 1 of 2 (2016 Measurement Year)
- 2017 Patient-level file specifications, File 2 of 2 (2016 Measurement Year)
- 2017 Patient-level data submission instructions (2016 Measurement Year)

Use all of the 2017 documents to create the MY 2016 patient-level data files and to create and submit your HEDIS PLD files. Be sure to deliver the 2017 versions of these documents to your NCQA-Certified HEDIS Compliance Auditor and any third-party vendor submitting data on your behalf. Since there were no changes in the measure layout from last year, there is no crosswalk document this year.

MA Contract HEDIS patient-level data submission to CMS

All contracts must submit their MY 2016 patient-level HEDIS PLD files using the secure CMS’s 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 the HEDIS PLD using the file naming conventions that are specified in the 2017 patient-level submission instructions.

If your organization uses the services of a third-party vendor to do the EFT, notify them about the HEDIS PLD requirements so that they can submit the files your organization creates. In the event a patient-level data file does not pass validation, you should inform your vendor that they must submit any corrected data files by midnight on June 15, 2017.

The CMS federal contractor for HEDIS PLD collection, Scope InfoTech, Inc., accesses the submitted data through the same secure system to complete the validation of the data files. Make sure that someone in your MA contract is designated as a “Point of Contact” (POC). That contact will be issued an ID and will have to create a password to see the status of your patient-level data via the HEDIS Patient-Level 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 the designated POC for each contract follow the steps in the HEDIS PLD Instructions to grant portal access to other members within their organization as backup POCs.

For questions about the 2017 HEDIS Patient-level file specifications and the submission process, please contact MA_patient_data@scopeinfotechinc.com.

Testing HEDIS PLD Submissions to CMS

CMS strongly recommends that all contracts participate in the testing period to ensure that connectivity is in place and that files are formatted correctly to ensure a successful submission.

All contracts or their third-party vendors participating in the testing period, should submit their HEDIS patient-level test data from April 3, 2017 through May 5, 2017. These contracts must submit their test data through EFT.

This test period is for verifying the EFT connectivity and finding programming or logic errors prior to the official submission period. For more information about providing a test submission, read the “Patient-Level Data Submission Overview” section of the Submission Instructions or contact Ma_patient_data@scopeinfotechinc.com.

CMS will open the EFT system to accept final data submission from all contracts starting on Tuesday, May 30, 2017.

HEDIS Summary-Level Data

Contact your HEDIS account manager at NCQA regarding the 2017 HEDIS summary-level data submission. As has always been the case, at the MA contract level, your HEDIS patient-level data must match your HEDIS summary-level data.

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