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**DATE:** August 21, 2025

**TO:** Medicare Advantage Organizations, Prescription Drug Plan Sponsors,  
Employer/Union Direct Medicare Advantage Organizations and Prescription Drug  
Plan Sponsors, and Cost Based Plans

**FROM:** Kathryn A. Coleman  
Director, Medicare Drug & Health Plan Contract Administration Group

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Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

**SUBJECT:** Updates to the Health Plan Management System Electronic Contracting Module  
– Release of the Contracts and Addenda for Contract Year 2026

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The Contract Year (CY) 2026 contracts and addenda will be released in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) Electronic Contracting Module on Monday, August 25, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. EDT. Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs), Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) sponsors, Employer/Union Direct MAOs and PDP sponsors, and Cost Based plans **must** execute contracts via the electronic signature process in HPMS. The signed contracts are due no later than **5:00 p.m. EDT on Sunday, August 31, 2025**. Organizations that fail to submit signatures by the deadline may not be included in the 2026 Medicare & You Handbook.

As described in our April 11, 2025 memorandum entitled “Instructions for Requesting Plan Electronic Signature Access in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS),” only those individuals associated with the following contacts in HPMS will be permitted to sign electronically as an official of the contracting organization:

- Chief Executive Officer – CMS Administrator Contact
- Chief Executive Officer - Senior Official for Contracting
- Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
- Chief Operating Officer (COO)

Consequently, one or more of these designated individuals must have a CMS user ID with HPMS electronic signature access to sign contracting documents and attestations. In accordance with the HPMS Rules of Behavior, the sharing of user IDs is **strictly prohibited**.

Except where noted below, this guidance applies to MAOs, PDP sponsors, Employer/Union Direct MAOs and PDP sponsors, and Cost Based plans. This guidance does **not** apply to PACE organizations.

Accessing Contracting Documents: Once CMS approves an organization's bids, the signing official can access the contract documents in HPMS using the following navigation path: Contract Management > Electronic Contracting > Review And Sign Contract Materials > Contract Year 2026 > Select Contract ID.

Reviewing and Signing Documents in HPMS: On the Review and Sign Contract Materials page, the signing official must select the documents to be signed. Organizations must review all documents before selecting the Final Sign-off button. Upon electronically signing the documents in HPMS, the signing official will receive an email indicating the contract materials are complete and have been sent to CMS for countersignature. The signing official will also receive an email once CMS has countersigned the contracting documents.

Checking Contract Status: Organizations may check the status of contract documents, including when documents have been countersigned, by using the following navigation path: HPMS Contract Management > Electronic Contracting > Contract Year 2026 > Electronic Contracting > Reports > Electronic Contracting Disposition Report. Sponsors may view and print contract documents at HPMS Contract Management > Electronic Contracting > View Contracting Materials.

For questions regarding the CY 2026 contracts or addenda, please contact April Forsythe at [april.forsythe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:april.forsythe@cms.hhs.gov).

For technical questions regarding HPMS, please contact the HPMS Help Desk at either [hpms@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:hpms@cms.hhs.gov) or 1-800-220-2028.