



CENTER FOR MEDICARE

DATE: September 8, 2025

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Prescription Drug Plans, and Section 1876 Cost Plans

FROM: Vanessa S. Duran
Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: Second Plan Preview of 2026 Part C and D Star Ratings Data

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform Part C and D sponsors that they can preview their Star Ratings data in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) prior to display on the Medicare Plan Finder (MPF). The second plan preview will be available September 9, 2025 and will end on September 16, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. ET. We have made measure data revisions and Technical Notes updates following the first plan preview. Additionally, each contract's preliminary Star Ratings for each measure, domain, summary score, and overall score will be displayed, including any applicable disaster adjustments. We have also added files in HPMS with data for sample Part C and D measures for contracts to check the CMS programming. Sample data are provided for one of each type of measure needed to replicate cut points; the same cut point programming is used for all other measures as the sample measures. The 2026 Star Ratings are scheduled to be released via the MPF on Medicare.gov on or about October 9, 2025.

During this second plan preview, CMS expects Part C and D sponsors to again closely review their posted data for each measure, as well as their preliminary Star Rating assignments. Sponsors should *immediately* alert CMS of any suspected data issues or errors during the plan preview in order to allow sufficient time to investigate and process any necessary data corrections. If you print or save the data displayed on the HPMS Star Rating preview pages, please double check the current values online prior to submitting emails in case any updates have been made. Prior to the release of data on the MPF, all data in HPMS will be updated with the final 2026 Star Ratings. Finalized Star Ratings will be available for all contracts, including withdrawn and terminated contracts, in HPMS in early October. As a reminder, we are unable to make changes to the 2026 Star Ratings methodology that has previously been codified at §§ 422.160 - 422.166 and 423.180 - 423.186.

Instructions for Accessing Preview Data:

- To access the Part C and D Star Ratings preview in HPMS, select: "Quality and Performance," then "Performance Metrics," then "Reports," then "Star Ratings and Display Measures," then "Star Ratings," and then select 2026 for the report period.

- The draft 2026 Part C & D Star Ratings Technical Notes are available by selecting the “Download” link, then “Technical Notes” within the Star Ratings module.

Please email comments or questions to the following mailbox:

PartCandDStarRatings@cms.hhs.gov. Also copy the CallCenterMonitoring@cms.hhs.gov mailbox for call center monitoring questions. Please include “Plan Preview #2” and a Contract ID in the subject line, and send a separate email for each data source (e.g., HEDIS issues should be grouped into one email, and CAHPS issues should be grouped into a separate email). If you are emailing about multiple contracts with similar issues, please group your questions into a limited number of emails. In this case, include “Plan Preview #2” and the organization name in the subject line, and list the affected Contract IDs in the actual email.

Do not submit emails requiring CMS to log in to a website to access the questions.

If you need to share personally identifiable information (PII) with us, please contact us via regular email to discuss a safe way to transfer the data.

Comments and questions must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on September 16, 2025 and will be addressed on a rolling basis.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensure the success of the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug programs.