

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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MEDICARE PLAN PAYMENT GROUP

DATE: September 30, 2025
TO: All Part D Sponsors
FROM: Jennifer R. Shapiro, Director, Medicare Plan Payment Group
SUBJECT: 2026 Prescription Drug Event (PDE) File Layout Updates

The purpose of this memo is to share updates to the Prescription Drug Event (PDE) File Layouts that will be effective on January 1, 2026. A new field is being added to the PDE Outbound File Layout (repurposing existing Filler), and new valid values are being added to a few existing fields of the PDE Inbound and Outbound File Layouts. Additionally, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has revised some of the existing field names and existing verbiage in these layouts to ensure consistent and relevant descriptions are provided. Lastly, CMS is removing the “PACE Applicability” column that was added to the 2025 PDE Inbound File Layout¹. It is now indicated in the “Definition / Values” column if Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) organizations are to submit <SPACE> in fields that were previously labeled with an “N” in the “PACE Applicability” column.

Concurrent with the release of this memo, CMS is posting updated 2026 PDE Inbound and Outbound File Layouts to the Customer Service and Support Center (CSSC) Operations website (www.csscoperations.com) → Prescription Drug Program → File and Report Layouts. CMS has also provided these layouts as attachments to this memo.

At a later date, CMS will also be posting information pertaining to updated PDE edits that will be effective January 1, 2026.

Please submit questions regarding any updates below to PDE-Operations@cms.hhs.gov.

New Outbound Field Addition

CMS Calculated Selected Drug Subsidy

¹ See HPMS memorandum, *2025 Prescription Drug Event (PDE) File Layout Updates for all Part D Plan Sponsors, and Additional 2025 Changes to PDE Reporting for PACE Organizations*, March 8, 2024 (available at <https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/information-systems/hpms/hpms-memos-archive-weekly/hpms-memos-wk-2-march-4-8>).

In support of the Selected Drug Subsidy field in positions 525-535 of the PDE File Layout, CMS is adding a new field named CMS Calculated Selected Drug Subsidy in positions 819-829 of the PDE Outbound File Layout, which was previously designated as Filler. This new field will act in the same manner as the existing CMS Calculated Gap Discount and CMS Calculated Manufacturer Discount fields, but for a selected drug² during a price applicability period³.

New Valid Values for Existing Inbound/Outbound Fields

Dispense as Written (DAW) Product Selection Code: Value = 'A'

A new value of 'A' (Multi-payer Brand/Reference Product Formulary Conflict) has been added as a valid value for all dates of service.

Prescriber ID Qualifier: Value = '18'

A new value of '18' (No Prescriber ID, No Prescription Associated to the transaction) has been added as a valid value for over-the-counter (OTC) drugs for all dates of service.

Please note: Prescriber ID must be '0' (zero) when Prescriber ID Qualifier = '18'.

Prescription Origin Code: Value = '6'

A new value of '6' (No Associated Prescription) has been added as a valid value for OTC drugs for all dates of service.

Field Name Updates for Existing Inbound/Outbound Fields

Patient Date of Birth (DOB)

Field is being renamed to Date of Birth (DOB), removing the term Patient.

Total Gross Covered Drug Cost Accumulator

Field is being renamed to Total Gross Covered Drug Cost (TGCDC) Accumulator, adding the term (TGCDC).

True Out-of-Pocket Accumulator

Field is being renamed to True Out-of-Pocket (TrOOP) Accumulator, adding the term (TrOOP).

PBP of Record

Field is being renamed to P2P PBP of Record, adding the term P2P.

² “Selected drug” is referred to under section 1192(c) of the Social Security Act (“the Act”).

³ “Price applicability period” is defined in section 1191(b)(2) of the Act.