DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Medicare Plan Payment Group
Enterprise Systems Solutions Group

DATE: **November 30, 2018**

TO: All Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, Cost, PACE, and Demonstration
                 Organizations Systems Staff

FROM: Jennifer Harlow /s/
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SUBJECT: **Advance Announcement of the February 2019 Software Release**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to implement software improvements to the enrollment and payment systems that support Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) programs. This letter provides advanced information regarding the planned release of systems changes scheduled for February 2019. This release focuses on improving the efficiency of CMS systems as well as Plan processing.

The February 2019 Release changes will include the following:

Changes to the Medicare Part C Advantage Medicaid Status Data File (MCMD)

Changes will be made to the Medicare Advantage Medicaid Status Data file (MCMD) to include the start and end dates of entire Medicaid period(s) and match as they appear on the MARx User Interface (UI). With this change, the MCMD data file will display all past and current Medicaid periods in their entirety for beneficiaries with enrollment as of January 2017 or later. Audited Medicaid records will also be included in the MCMD data file containing an indicator to designate them as such. This change is designed to make it easier for Medicare Advantage Plans to match/compare the Medicaid status data with other sources where Medicaid data is displayed, such as, the MARx UI and the Monthly Membership Report (MMR) Detail data file.

Plans are encouraged to contact the MAPD Help Desk for any issues encountered during the systems update process. Please direct any questions or concerns to the MAPD Help Desk at 1-800-927-8069 or e-mail at mapdhelp@cms.hhs.gov.