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

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

DATE: May 12, 2020

TO: All Current and Prospective Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, Section 1876 Cost, PACE, and Demonstration Organizations

FROM: Jon Booth
Director, Web & Emerging Technologies Group

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

SUBJECT: Medicare Plan Finder Enhancements for Contract Year 2021

CMS appreciates your ongoing feedback on the Medicare Plan Finder (MPF). These insights are invaluable as the agency continues down a path of iterative improvements to the tool.

To assist organizations with preparations for Contract Year (CY) 2021, CMS is providing an overview of enhancements planned for MPF and the related Health Plan Management System (HPMS) modules that support Part D pricing file submissions, plan benefit and drug pricing previews, suppressions and exclusions, and Online Enrollment Center (OEC) management. Further detail will be provided in subsequent guidance.

MPF

- In early May, the default sort in MPF was changed from **Lowest Premium** to **Lowest Drug + Premium Cost**. Along with this change, the design of plan cards was updated to highlight multiple costs important for decision making and improvements to readablity, style, and content. Additionally, the PACE, PAP, and SPAP tools were visually refreshed to align them with MPF.

- Other MPF enhancements that are planned to be in place by the Fall include, but are not limited to:

  o The Medigap tool will be switching to a commercial data source that will be updated on a weekly basis to ensure more timely data;
  o Plan data (not drug pricing) will be refreshed on a daily basis, including weekends;
  o 6 month and 1 year refill options will be added;
  o Pharmacy search will be improved, including the ability to find pharmacies by name and distance, as well as map usability and functionality; and

o   Search filters for different types of plans will be added, including a filter for plans participating in the upcoming Part D Senior Savings Program demonstration.

- As stated in the February 4, 2020 memo entitled "Invitation to Provide Feedback on the Redesigned Medicare Plan Finder Tool," the CY 2021 MPF OOPC model will utilize the CY 2020 MPF OOPC model as its foundation, while also refreshing the data inputs with the latest data available at that time. No other changes will be made to the structure of the model.

Part D Pricing File Submission Module

- In addition to the current upload functionality, plans will have the option to submit their Part D pricing files using an HPMS application programming interface (API).
- Plans will be able to complete attestations for all assigned contracts at one time.
- The finding details report will be enhanced to optimize performance.
- Additional email notifications will be provided (e.g., files not yet submitted, pending attestations, and completion of level 3 processing).

Online Enrollment Center (OEC) Management Module

- In addition to the current download functionality, plans will have the option to retrieve their enrollments using an HPMS API.
- Plans will have the ability to download an individual enrollment in a readable format.
- Plans will be able to look up enrollment requests by OEC confirmation number.
- The OEC file download record layout will be modified according to changes that result from the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) package entitled "Model Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Individual Enrollment Request Form." CMS will provide the new layout specifications via a separate HPMS memo.

Plan Benefit Preview

- For the benefit preview, plans will view their data using the actual MPF interface, which will be presented via the HPMS Plan Preview module.
- Plans will be able to do a side-by-side comparison of the preview and their PBP benefit reports.
- Plans will have the ability to categorize their preview comments, using preset options and creating their own labels.

Drug Pricing Preview

- Plans will be able to save custom drug and pharmacy lists in the module.
- The preview will allow plans to select up to 25 drugs and 10 pharmacies in a search.
- Data results will be exportable from the drug pricing preview.
- The preview will allow plans to retrieve pricing for both retail pharmacies and mail order concurrently within a search.

- Plans will have the ability to categorize their preview comments, using preset options and creating their own labels.

<u>Suppressions and Exclusions Module</u>

- Plans will have access to an enhanced dashboard to view all suppression, exclusion, and sanction activity for their assigned contract numbers.

For questions regarding this memo, please contact the MPF team at MPF@cms.hhs.gov and the HPMS team at hpms@cms.hhs.gov.