



May 2007 Risk Adjustment User Group Questions & Answers

Date: May 16, 2007

Payment Issues

1. Q: Why does the risk factor code not appear on the MMR for some beneficiaries?
A: A default indicator (i.e. a default enrollee) or a change of status due to ESRD are some possible reasons for it not appearing.

2. Q: Is there an update regarding adjustment/payment for terminated PPO demonstration plans?
A: These types of inquiries should be submitted in writing to Marla Kilbourne at marla.kilbourne@cms.hhs.gov and copy Debbie Van Holden and Jody Blatt of ORDI.

3. Q: Are the social HMOs done for 2004/2005?
A: No. CMS staff is working to resolve some issues with this program.

4. Q: How can plans access the MARx systems to comprehensively check eligibility?
A: Plans should contact James Dorsey at james.dorsey@cms.hhs.gov for complete directions regarding MARx eligibility inquiries.

5. Q: Is Interventional Pain Management included as an approved specialty for Risk Adjustment data submission?
A: CMS will research this question, and provide an answer at the next User Group session.



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6. Q: Can plans send interventional pain management to Ambulatory Surgery Centers?
A: Plans may not submit diagnostic data from Ambulatory Surgical Centers for Risk Adjustment payment.
7. Q: How are Part D risk factors calculated from risk indicators?
A: This information can be found on the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareAdvtgSpecRateStats/>. Plans may also refer to the 2006 Payment Notice.
8. Q: Who should plans contact to determine why zero risk factors are appearing on the MMR?
A: Plans may submit inquiry with samples of the zero risk factors to Chanda McNeal at chanda.mcneal@cms.hhs.gov.
9. Q: Should plans scrub data for diagnosis codes included in the current and future models or for all diagnosis codes?
A: Plans should submit their diagnostic data that is contained in the current and future models. Anything further is left up to the plan.

Data Validation

1. Q: Who receives notification of the 2006 Chart Review if a plan is selected?
A: CMS sends the notification to the Medicare Compliance Officer.
2. Q: When will 2006 Chart Review notification be sent?
A: CMS has scheduled this notification to be sent to selected plans at the end of May.



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3. Q: Can plans use medical records from physicians' visits at Long-term and Skilled Nursing facilities that are documented in charts for RAPS submission?
- A: It is generally recommended that plans do not use these records if other medical records are available. Clear guidance is provided in the information guide provided to plans that are selected.

Operations Update

1. Q: Is there a formal notification identifying the 502 duplicate error rate?
- A: Plans may use the Duplicate Error report to determine the number of clusters that generated the 502 error message. In addition, the plans can determine the number of duplicates per file by analyzing the Transaction Summary Report. The difference between the clusters submitted and the clusters stored represents the number of duplicates submitted.

If there appears to be a trend of submitting duplicate clusters that exceed the 5% benchmark, CMS will send a non-compliance letter to the plan through HPMS. The letter is sent to the Compliance Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Executive Officer.

2. Q: On what is the 5% of the 502 error rate based?
- A: The benchmark of 5 percent is based on the total number of 502 errors received per contract number per file submitted. The total is calculated at the contract level, not at the file level.



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3. Q: To whom should plans send the 502-error Corrective Action Plan (CAP) letter?
A: Plans should send the corrective action plans to Louis Johnson at louis.johnson@cms.hhs.gov and copy Sean Creighton at sean.creighton@cms.hhs.gov .

Training Update

1. Q: Will manuals be available for individuals not able to attend the Regional Training?
A: Manuals will be available online at csscooperations.com sometime after the end of the August Regional training session, but on or before October 31, 2007.
2. Q: Will there be PDE training for PACE specific plans during 2007 Regional training?
A: Currently there is no PACE specific PDE training scheduled for 2007.