

2007/08 Risk Adjustment User Group



June 2008
Questions & Answers

Date: June 11, 2008

Payment Issues

- Q: Where is the PCUG available electronically?

A: The Plan Communications User's Guide is available on the CMS MMA Help website at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MMAHelp/02_Plan_Communications_User_Guide.asp#TopOfPage.
- Q: What is the turnaround time for responding to questions submitted to risk adjustment payment email box (raf_payment_questions@cms.hhs.gov)?

A: The turnaround time depends on the question and the amount of research involved, if required.

Data Validation

- Q: Please explain the pilot and full validation sampling.

A: The pilot is a sample of a small number of plans on an accelerated data validation timetable. The full validation is a sample of a larger number of plans.
- Q: What should plans do if they have questions about 2005 Risk Adjustment Data Validation?

A: Plans should contact Mary Guy at mary.guy@cms.hhs.gov for questions regarding the 2005 Risk Adjustment Data Validation.

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3. Q: What does plan-level adjustments mean?
A: At this time, policy indicates that CMS will make applicable plan-level adjustments based on the validation results at a plan-level calculation instead of at the beneficiary level. CMS will provide further guidance regarding the details of calculating plan-level adjustments in the near future.
4. Q: What year do plan-level adjustments begin?
A: Plan-level adjustments begin with payment year 2007.

Operations Update

1. Q: What should plans do if the hospital indicates a date of death (same as the date of discharge) that differs from CMS' records?
A: The plan should obtain a death certificate to confirm the hospital's claim about the date of death and provide documentation for the plan's records for the beneficiary.
2. Q: How do individuals get on the distribution list for CMS communications sent to plans?
A: There are several mechanisms for communicating with the plans:

Health Plan Management System (HPMS) Notices	Distributed to the Medicare Compliance Officer or other staff indicated by the plan. The Medicare Compliance Officer should distribute notices as needed to appropriate staff based on their role in the plan.
Plan Payment Letter	Distributed each month by the Division of Payment Operations (DPO) to designated plan staff (e.g., enrollment or finance departments).
User Group Listserv	User Group materials and notifications distributed to registered participants. If not already registered for User Groups, go to www.tarsc.info to register online.
CSSC Operations	CSSC Operations notifies plans of System Status issues, updates from CMS, Report distributions and other MA data submission information.

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