

2007/08

Risk Adjustment User Group



April 2008
Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: April 16, 2008

Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EST

In Attendance:

Panelists: Henri Thomas, Sean Creighton, Louis Johnson, Mary Guy, Joyce Pedigo, Sheila Young, and Tiffany Valery.

(Participants should reference the PowerPoint slides when reviewing the notes from the User Group Session.)

Topics:

Payment Process

2009 Final Payment Notice

CMS released the *Announcement of Calendar Year (CY) 2009 Medicare Advantage Capitation Rates and Medicare Advantage and Part D Payment Policies* on April 7, 2008. The payment notice addresses the following:

- 2009 final estimate of the increase in the national per capita MA growth percentages, which impacts benchmarks for the following year and bid submissions
- Recalibration of the CMS-HCC Model
- Recalibrated frailty factors for PACE organizations and certain demonstrations
- Frailty adjustment transition for PACE organizations and former demonstration programs
- Normalization factors for Part C, Part D, and ESRD models
- Budget neutrality factor estimated for 2009, which is factored into the payment rates
- ESRD Bidding and Payment guidance

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2007/08

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Meeting Notes

- 2007 CMS Audits (Data Validation), which includes changing the process of payment adjustment from beneficiary-level to plan-level
- 2009 Risk Adjustment Factors – the recalibrated SAS model software is available on the CMS website and information about the recalibrated model is available on HPMS. The model software is located at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareAdvtgSpecRateStats/06_Risk_adjustment.asp#TopOfPage

The Advance and Final payment notices are located on the CMS website at the following locations:

- Final (released April 7, 2008):
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareAdvtgSpecRateStats/Downloads/Announcement2009.pdf>
- Advance (released February 22, 2008):
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareAdvtgSpecRateStats/Downloads/Advance2009.pdf>

In the Final Notice, CMS attempted to list all items from the Advance Notice that carried forward to final policy. However, any proposed items from the Advance Notice CMS did not comment on or rescind in the Final Notice becomes effective as final policy.

Risk and Frailty Scores Available for Bid Submissions

CMS posted contract and plan-specific Part C risk scores using the recalibrated model for 2009 on HPMS on Friday, April 11, 2008. Plans can use this information in preparing their bid submissions.

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2007/08

Risk Adjustment User Group



April 2008
Meeting Notes

CMS posted blended frailty factors for PACE organizations for the development of their 2009 bids as well as frailty factors that incorporated the phase out for the demonstrations plans.

CMS also posted the Part C risk scores (fee-for-service normalized) under the current model for plans that wish to compare the two models for their beneficiaries. The data includes the most complete available Medicare Advantage. However, the Fee-for-Service data is missing one month.

In addition, CMS posted the 2007 Part D risk scores for the development of the 2009 Part D bids.

Mid-Year Factor Reconciliation Payments

CMS still anticipates the Mid-Year payment to occur in July, 2008 and the Final 2007 Reconciliation payment to occur in August, 2008.

Data Validation

Calendar Year (CY) 2007

CMS sampling for CY2007 Data Validation began in April 2008, and expects to notify selected plans in May or June, 2008 via email to the plan's Compliance Officer.

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2007/08

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April 2008
Meeting Notes

CY2006

The Initial Validation Contractor (IVC) and Second Validation Contractor (SVC) have completed the medical record review for the CY2006 Data Validation. Data analysis and quality assurance of the results are in progress.

CY2005

On March 6, 2008, CMS mailed risk adjustment data validation (RADV) findings to selected MA organizations. CMS, on March 12th, conducted a teleconference with plans to discuss the findings.

CMS released a post-teleconference Q&A document on April 1, which included questions and answers during the teleconference as well as questions received after the teleconference. Plans should make special note of the last question (i.e., Question # 5), because it suggests that plans may have the opportunity to submit documentation to support a higher HCC.

The appeals submission deadline is April 6. Plans may use, as a format, the sample appeals letter, which is included in the March 6 RADV Findings mailing. Plans should follow the instructions that are provided in the RADV Findings mailing for submitting questions. Plans should copy the CMS Project Officer, Mary Guy, at mary.guy@cms.hhs.gov when submitting their appeals.

CMS may only extend the appeals' deadline for those plans that had difficulty receiving their March mailing. Plans who believe that they are eligible for the extended deadline should contact Mary Guy to discuss their status.

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2007/08

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April 2008
Meeting Notes

Operations Update

Duplicate Diagnosis and Overlapping Dates of Service

When plans submit duplicate diagnoses for overlapping dates of service, this does not constitute a duplicate diagnosis cluster. In this instance, the dates of service would not be the same in both diagnosis clusters. However, it is important to note that the diagnosis code will only count once towards a beneficiary's risk adjustment factor.

CMS defines a duplicate diagnosis cluster as a cluster that shares five attributes with another cluster that was previously submitted and stored in the RAPS database. The five attributes are:

1. HIC Number
2. Provider Type
3. From Date
4. Through Date
5. Diagnosis Code

Technical Assistance Update

Monthly Sessions

The next Risk Adjustment Session is on April 30 and Enrollment & Payment Session is on May 28, 2008. To register, go to www.tarsc.info and complete the online registration.

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2007/08

Risk Adjustment User Group



April 2008
Meeting Notes

Regional Sessions

Registration is now open for the Regional Risk Adjustment Technical Assistance Sessions. The locations and dates are:

Location	Dates	Technical Assistance Sessions Offered
Chicago, IL	August 11 – August 14	Risk Adjustment Enrollment and Payment Prescription Drug Event
Las Vegas, NV	August 26 – August 29	Risk Adjustment Enrollment and Payment Prescription Drug Event
New Orleans, LA	September 9 – September 10	Risk Adjustment Enrollment and Payment

Register online at www.tarsc.info.

Next User Group meeting scheduled: Wednesday, *May 14, 2008*, at 1:30 pm EST.

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