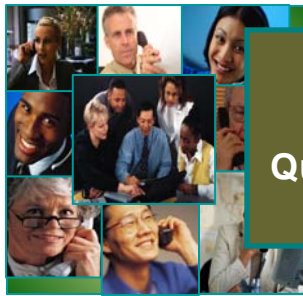


Risk Adjustment User Group



January 2009
Questions & Answers

Date: January 21, 2009

Payment Issues

1. Q: Since the final submission date of January 31, 2009 is on a Saturday, will CMS allow plans to submit files on the following Monday for 2007 dates of service?

A: We suggest that plans submit this data by Thursday, January 29th. This will allow plans time to review their risk adjustment return reports and to resubmit any required corrected data by January 31st. If plans submit data after January 31, there is no guarantee that the data will be included when CMS sweeps the data.

2. Q: Is it possible to receive a special Monthly Membership Report (MMR) that includes only the data needed to calculate the enrollees risk score and members who are no longer enrolled in the plan?

A: CMS does not provide a special MMR, and has no plans to do so.

3. Q: If the risk adjustment factor does not change between the midyear update and final reconciliation, how can plans verify that this is correct?

A: Plans may use the SAS software to verify the enrollee's risk score. Also, the MMR will provide updated risk score information if there is a change in the risk factor. Plans may consider developing an internal process to monitor their MMRs.

4. Q: Who should plans contact when problems occur with installing the SAS software macros?

A: Plans may email Sean Creighton at sean.creighton@cms.hhs.gov or Stephen Calfo at stephan.calfo@cms.hhs.gov

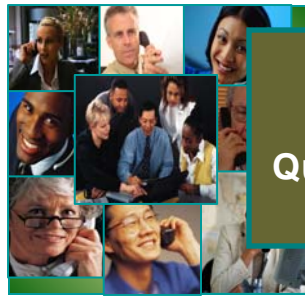
5. Q: When will CMS release the Sweep Date for January 31, 2009?

A: CMS does not release the sweep date, until the sweep has been completed. However, CMS informs plans well in advance of the final submission due date, which guarantees that submitted data by the due date will be included in the sweep run.

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6. Q: If plans submitted data prior to the sweep date of March 7, 2008, should midyear 2008 payment reflect those submissions?
- A: Yes, this data should be reflected in the July payment. If the data was not reflected in the payment, verify the Customer Support and Service Center (CSSC) received the data. If CSSC received the file, send the specific information regarding the data in question to analyst@askriskadjustment.com, in a password protected file for additional research.

Data Validation

1. Q: Is it possible for CMS to select a plan for both the National and Random samples?
- A: Yes. CMS may select a plan for more than one sample type.
2. Q: Is CMS no longer accepting physician signature stamps?
- A: Effective April 2008, CMS no longer accepted physician signature stamps. You may contact Mary Guy at Mary.Guy@cms.hhs.gov for the documentation of this guidance.
3. Q: Has CMS provided guidance related to physician signature logs?
- A: If the physician log was included in the plan's contract with their network providers during the period in question, CMS will accept the log. However, if the contract requests signature logs retroactively from physicians who were not required to use the logs, CMS will not accept the logs.
4. Q: What is the CMS policy regarding the appropriate use of research notes for support of HCCs?
- A: This question should be directed offline to Lateefah Hughes at Lateefah.Hughes@cms.hhs.gov and copy Henri Thomas at Henri.Thomas@cms.hhs.gov
5. Q: Will CMS require an attestation form with the RADV National Sample?
- A: No attestation will be required with the national sample. For all other sampling selected, plans should wait for direction from CMS.

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January 2009 Questions & Answers

6. Q: When will CMS send the new targeted sample to plans?
- A: The date for this sample has not been determined.

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