



PHARMACY QUALITY SOLUTIONS

Managing Performance Information in a Quality Driven World



PQS Summary of 2020 Medicare Part C and D Star Ratings Technical Notes

THRESHOLD UPDATE

On October 9th, CMS released the Medicare 2020 Part C & D Star Rating Technical Notes. This update documents the trends and high-level summary of performance associated with key Part C & D measures.

The 2020 Star Ratings for Medicare Part C & D plans are displayed on the Medicare Plan Finder found at www.medicare.gov. Medicare beneficiaries, starting on October 15th, have been able to view these 2020 Star Ratings when selecting their MA-PD or PDP for the 2020 benefit year as part of the Open Enrollment period which will continue through December 7th.

Effective with the November EQiPP™ performance refresh, Pharmacy Quality Solutions (PQS) has displayed the updated 2020 Star Rating thresholds in EQiPP™ for the 3-, 4-, and 5-Star MAPD Thresholds within the Goal drop down menu on the main page. However, most plans, PBMs, and associated

programs will continue to maintain customized, programmatic goals which would be detailed in the Quality Improvement Program (QIP) table in addition to any applicable “My Programs” displays.

As partners for improving quality, PQS has provided key highlights from the 2020 Part C & D Star Rating Technical Notes that impact pharmacy-based quality measures. The complete version of the Technical Notes can be found [here](#).

Note: See Appendix I for the 2020 MAPD and PDP thresholds and Appendix II for average performance trends from 2014-2020.

General Points from the Medicare 2020 Part C & D Star Rating Technical Notes:

- Approximately 81% of MAPD enrollees (5% increase from 2019) and ONLY 28% of PDP enrollees (drop from 45% in 2018) are in a Medicare contract with a rating of 4 or more stars.
- Average Overall MAPD Star Rating increased to 4.16, which was the largest jump from the previous three years. The average PDP Star Rating increased from 3.34 Stars in 2019 to 3.5 in 2020.



Focused Updates for Medication-Related Part D Measures from the Medicare 2020 Part C & D Stars

Medication Adherence Measures

Key Takeaways

- The average MAPD Star Rating increased in 2020 for the RASA PDC (Now 3.3 from 3.1 Stars in 2019), Statin PDC (Now 3.4 from 3.2 Stars in 2019) and Diabetes PDC measures (Now 3.9 from 3.7 Stars in 2019.)
- MAPD average adherence rates for all three adherence measures increased, with Statin PDC having the largest average increase of 2% compared to the 2019 Star Rating CMS reported averages. The other two adherence measures both had a 1% year over year increase in measure averages.
- The average PDP Star Rating for the Diabetes PDC measure had a large increase for 2020 with the average Star Rating going from 2.6 to 3.3 Stars. The RASA PDC measure went from 3.0 Stars in 2019 to 3.2 Stars in 2020 and the Statin PDC measure went from 3.1 Stars to 3.3 Stars in 2020.
- Despite the drop in the average Star Rating for the PDP adherence measures, the average scores for both Diabetes PDC and Statin PDC increased by 1% with PDC RASA being the only measure that remained the same compared to 2019.
- For the MAPD thresholds, most thresholds remained the same, with all 5-Star adherence thresholds remaining the same.
- For PDP, all PDC measure thresholds had a mix of lower and higher thresholds. The 5-Star PDP threshold for Diabetes PDC and Cholesterol PDC remained the same at 88% for each measure, and the 5-Star threshold for RASA increased by 1%.
- The average PDC scores based on 2018 data were (indicates change from 2019):

MAPD

- Diabetes: 83% (+1%)
- Hypertension: 85% (+1%)
- Cholesterol: 82% (+2%, was also 2% increase from 2018-2019)

PDP

- Diabetes: 84% (+1%)
- Hypertension: 86% (No Change)
- Cholesterol: 84% (+1%)

Measure Details

- This measures the percentage of eligible members with a proportion of days covered (PDC) rate at 80% or over for the specific drug classes (e.g. diabetes, hypertension, and cholesterol medications)
- Patients with one or more claims for sacubitril/valsartan are excluded from the hypertension/RASA adherence measure
- End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) exclusions have been applied to measure results according to the most recent specifications from the measure steward. The two newest measures included the hypertension and diabetes adherence measures as the statin adherence measure already had an ESRD exclusion. As a result, all three adherence measures now have an ESRD exclusion which is represented in the Star Ratings Results.

Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes (SUPD)

Key Takeaways

- The average Star Rating for MAPD plans on the measure is up to 3.5 Stars from 3.3 Stars in 2019 and for PDPs is up slightly to 3.0 Stars from 2.9 in 2019.
- The average performance for the measure was up 1% for MAPD to a new average of 80% and up 2% for PDPs to a new average of 79%.

Measure Details

- Measures the percentage of beneficiaries 40-75 years old who were dispensed at least two diabetes medication fills who received a statin medication fill at any point during the measurement period.
- Exclusions include members with ESRD or who are enrolled in hospice.

Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease (SPC)

– PART C

Key Takeaways

- The average Star Rating for MAPD plans on the measure was down to 3.1 Stars from 3.3 Stars the year prior.
- The average performance for the measure, however, was up 2% to 81%.

Measure Details

- Measures the percentage of males 21–75 years of age and females 40–75 years of age during the measurement year, who were identified as having clinical atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) and were dispensed at least one high or moderate-intensity statin medication during the measurement year.
- Several exclusions exist with other conditions including ESRD.
- Key differences from the Part D SUPD measure involves the use of medical data to identify patients with ASCVD, and that the intensity of the statin is relevant to the measure, whereby only moderate to high-intensity statins are to be prescribed for the qualifying patient population. Low intensity statins do not allow patients to achieve numerator status. The measure also has a one-year look back period to identify the qualifying population.

MTM Program Completion Rate for Comprehensive Medication Review (CMR)

Key Takeaways

- The average Star Rating for MAPD plans increased from 3.3 Stars to 3.6 Stars for 2020. For PDP plans, the average Star Rating increased from 2.6 to 3.3 Stars for 2020.
- In addition to the increase in measure-level Star Ratings, the measure averages also increased significantly with MAPDs now having an average score of 77%, up 6% from the year prior, and PDPs have an average score of 44%, also having an increase of 6%.

Measure Details

- This measures the percent of MTM eligible members that have received a CMR during the measurement period.
- As mentioned in a previous call letter, the change in the 2020 calculation includes a denominator exception which is explained below:
 - Small update related to the qualifying population (i.e. denominator) based upon patients eligible for a CMR with fewer than 61 days of continuous enrollment in the MTM program. Members that did receive a CMR with less than 61 days of continuous enrollment will be included in the numerator and denominator for the measure. However, members that did not receive a CMR during the same time frame would be excluded from the measure.

APPENDIX I: 2020 MAPD & PDP Thresholds

MAPD - 2020					
Measure Name	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
PDC Diabetes	<74%	74%	78%	82%	85%
PDC Hypertension	<80%	80%	83%	86%	88%
PDC Cholesterol	<72%	72%	80%	84%	87%
CMR Completion Rate	<54%	54%	70%	79%	83%
Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes	<74%	74%	78%	81%	83%
Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease	<75%	75%	79%	83%	87%

PDP - 2020					
Measure Name	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
PDC Diabetes	<79%	79%	83%	85%	88%
PDC Hypertension	<83%	83%	85%	88%	90%
PDC Cholesterol	<79%	79%	83%	86%	88%
CMR Completion Rate	<22%	22%	34%	44%	60%
SUPD	<76%	76%	78%	79%	83%

APPENDIX II: 2020 MAPD & PDP Performance Trends

