PQS Summary of 2022 Medicare Part C and D Star Ratings Technical Notes

THRESHOLD UPDATE

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On October 8th, CMS released the Medicare 2022 Part C & D Star Rating Technical Notes. This update provides high-level summary of performance associated with key Part C & D measures.

The 2022 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, can view these 2022 Star Ratings when selecting their MA-PD or PDP for the 2022 benefit year as part of the Open Enrollment period which will continue through December 7th.

Effective with the November EQUIPP® performance refresh, Pharmacy Quality Solutions (PQS) is displaying the updated 2022 Star Rating thresholds in EQuIPP® 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 are detailed in the Quality Improvement Program (QIP) table in addition to any applicable "My Programs" displays.

As partners for improving quality, PQS is providing key highlights from the 2022 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 2022 MAPD and PDP thresholds and Appendix II for average performance trends from 2014-2022.

General Points and Highlights from the Medicare 2022 Part C & D Star Rating Technical Notes:

- For the 2022 Star Ratings, CMS adopted a number of changes to address the impact of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Medicare and Medicaid Programs and to encourage that members and patients faced minimal hurdles to receiving necessary care and treatment. Implemented changes for the 2022 Star ratings includes the delayed implementation of guardrails until the 2023 Star Ratings so cut points for the 2022 Star Ratings (based on 2020 measurement year) could change by more than 5 percentage points if needed. Additionally, CMS expanded the existing hold harmless provision for the Part C and D improvement measures providing protections against a plan's summary or overall rating to decrease due to lower scores as a result of the COVID-19.

- Approximately 90% of MA-PD enrollees are currently in contracts that will have 4 or more stars in 2022 while ONLY 42% of PDP enrollees (although an increase from prior year) are in a Medicare contract with a rating of 4 or more stars for the 2022 plan year.

- Average Overall MAPD Star Rating increased to 4.37, up 0.31%, which was the largest jump from the previous three years. The average PDP Star Rating increased from 3.58 Stars in 2021 to 3.70 in 2022.

- 5 Star MAPD Health Plans for 2022 will increase to 74 individual plans up from 21 contracts in 2021.

- 5 Star PDP Health Plans for 2022 will increase to 10 individual plans up from 5 contracts in 2021.

Focused Updates for Medication-related Part D Measures from the Medicare 2022 Part C & D Stars

Medication Adherence Measures

Key Takeaways

The average MAPD Star Ratings increased for two of the three Adherence (PDC) measures in 2022
- RASA PDC: 3.9 up from 3.2 Stars in 2021
- Statin PDC: 3.6 up from 3.3 Stars in 2021
- Diabetes PDC remains the same at 3.7 Stars

- MAPD average adherence rates for all three adherence measures increased, with Statin PDC having the largest average increase of 3.89% compared to the 2021 Star Rating CMS reported averages. The other two adherence measures both had a greater than 2% year over year increase in measure averages.

- The average PDP Star Rating for the RASA PDC measure had an increase for 2022 with the average Star Rating going from 3.1 to 3.5 Stars. The Diabetes PDC and Statin PDC measures remained the same for PDP plans compared to 2021.

- Despite the stagnant nature seen in the average Star Rating for the PDP adherence measures, the average scores for all three PDC measures increased by approximately 2%.

- For MAPD thresholds, all thresholds see an increase across all measures.

- For PDP thresholds, all measures see an increase in threshold as well.

- The average PDC scores based on 2020 data were (indicates change from 2021):

MAPD
- Diabetes: 86% (+3.4%)
- Hypertension: 87% (+2%)
- Cholesterol: 86% (+3%)

PDP
- Diabetes: 86% (+2%)
- Hypertension: 88% (+1%)
- Cholesterol: 87% (+2%)

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).
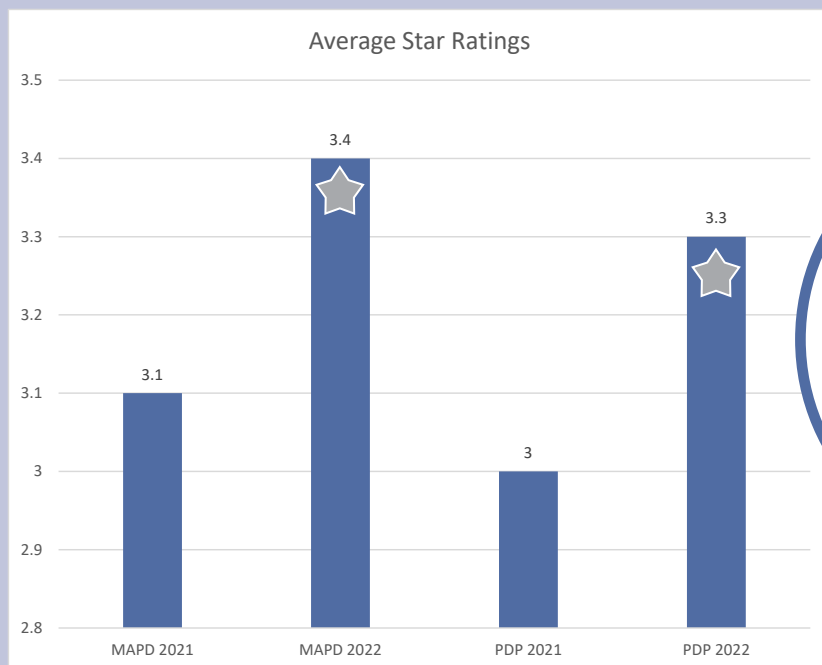
Medication Adherence Measures Continued

Measure Exclusions
- Patients with one or more claims for sacubitril/valsartan are excluded from the hypertension/RASA adherence measure.
- Patients with one or more prescriptions for insulin are excluded from the Diabetes PDC measure.
- End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) exclusions have been applied to measure results according to the most recent specifications from the measure steward. Additionally, patients indicating Hospice enrollment during the treatment period are also excluded from the adherence measures.

Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes (SUPD)

Key Takeaways

Average Star Ratings

The average Star Rating for MAPD plans on the measure is up to 3.4 Stars from 3.1 Stars in 2021 and for PDPs is also up to 3.3 Stars from 3.0 in 2021.

- The average performance for the SUPD measure was up 2% for MAPD to a new average of 83% and up 3% for PDPs to a new average of 81%.

Measure Details
- Measures the percentage of beneficiaries 40-75 years old who were dispensed at least two diabetes medications 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 up to 3.5 Stars from 3.1 Stars compared to the year prior.
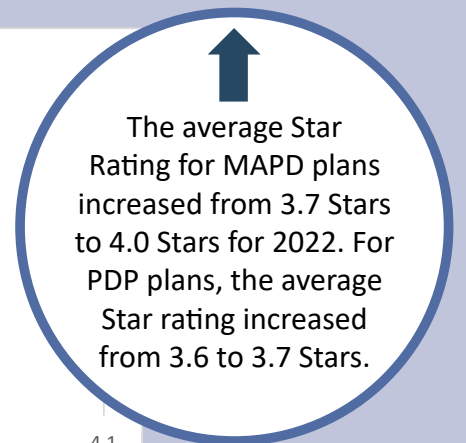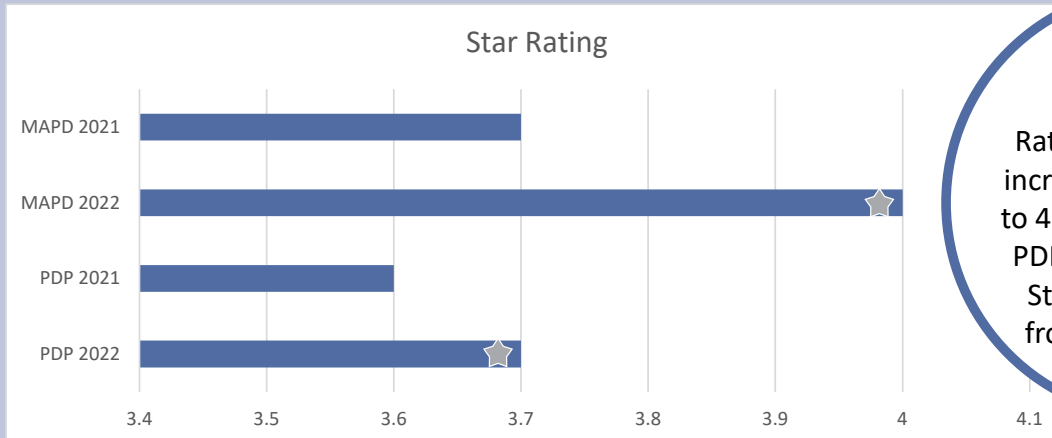
- The average performance for the SPC measure was up 3% to 84%.

Measure Details
- 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 and Hospice.
- 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

Star Rating

MAPD 2021	
MAPD 2022	
PDP 2021	
PDP 2022	

3.4   3.5   3.6   3.7   3.8   3.9   4   4.1

The average Star Rating for MAPD plans increased from 3.7 Stars to 4.0 Stars for 2022. For PDP plans, the average Star rating increased from 3.6 to 3.7 Stars.

- In addition to the increase in measure-level Star Ratings, the measure averages also increased significantly with MAPDs now having an average score of 83%, up 7% from the year prior, and PDPs have an average score of 54%, which is an increase of 9%.
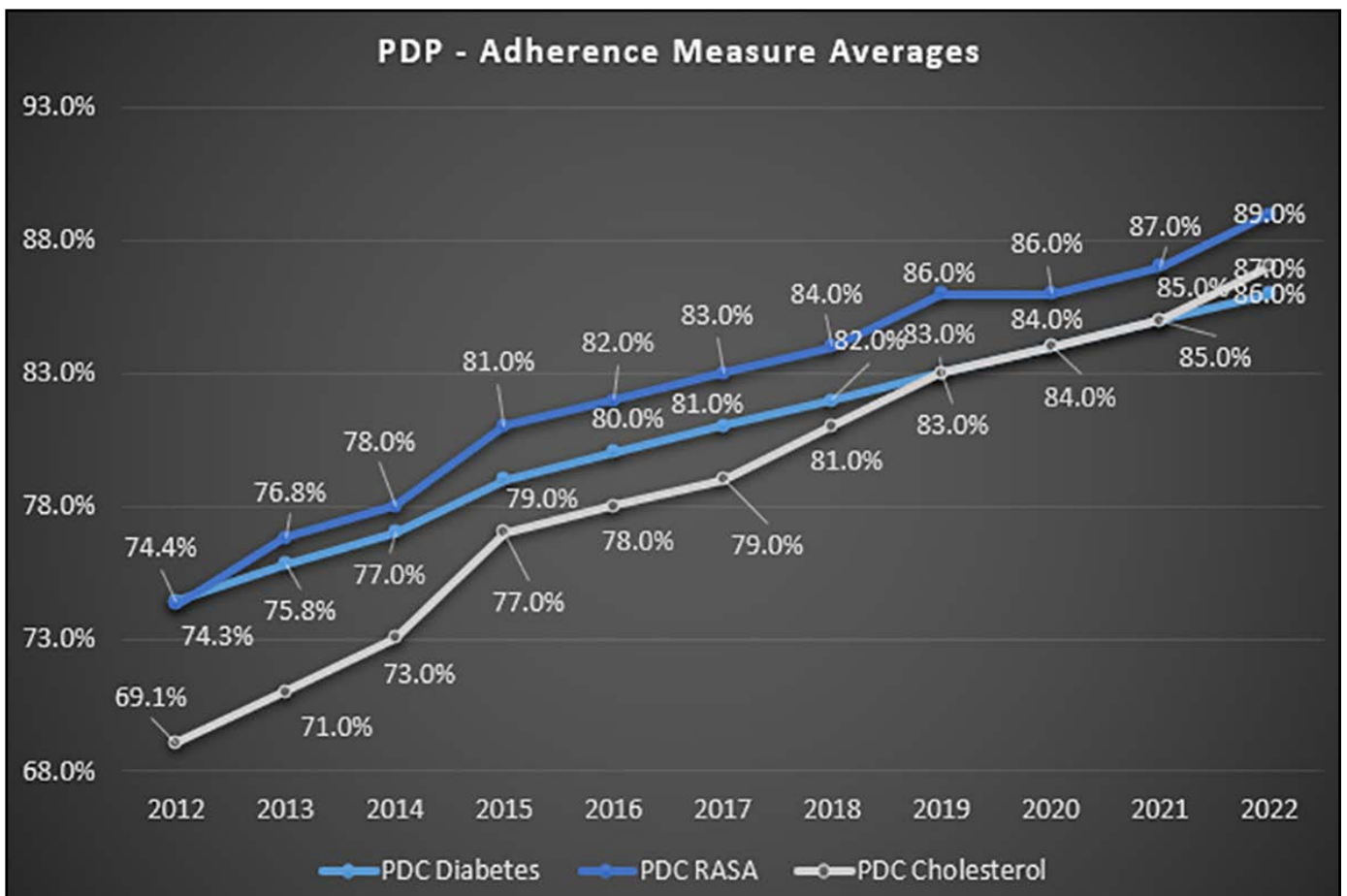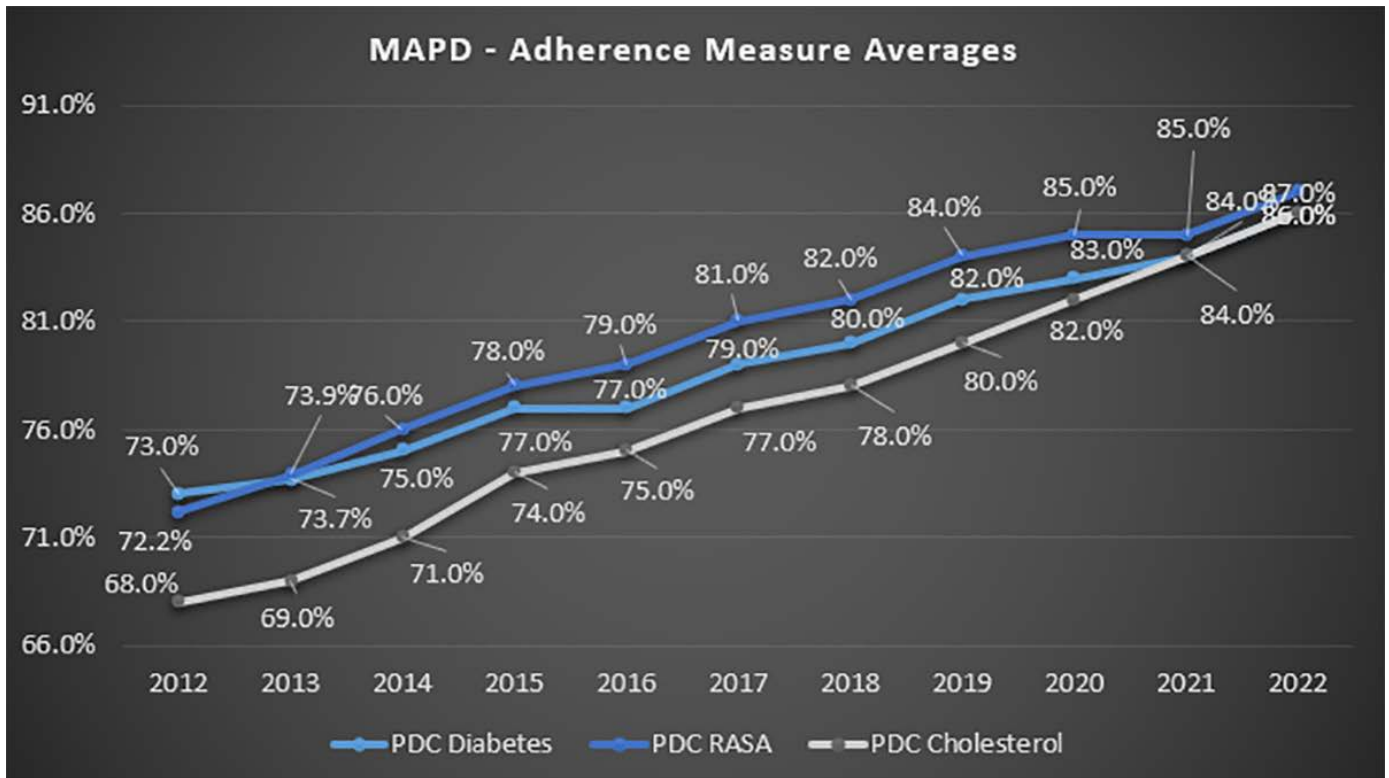
Measure Details
- This measures the percent of MTM eligible members that have received a CMR during the measurement period.
  - o Members that did receive a CMR with less than 61 days of continuous enrollment will be included in the numerator and denominator for the measure. However, members that did not receive a CMR during the same time frame would be excluded from the measure.

Appendix I: 2022 MAPD & PDP Thresholds

MAPD - 2022					
Measure Name	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
PDC Diabetes	<80%	80%	85%	87%	91%
PDC Hypertension	<74%	74%	82%	87%	90%
PDC Cholesterol	<78%	78%	83%	87%	91%
CMR Completion Rate	<54%	54%	72%	82%	89%
Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes	<76%	76%	80%	84%	88%
Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease	<76%	76%	81%	84%	89%

PDP - 2022					
Measure Name	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
PDC Diabetes	<84%	84%	86%	88%	90%
PDC Hypertension	<85%	85%	88%	89%	91%
PDC Cholesterol	<82%	82%	86%	88%	90%
CMR Completion Rate	<31%	31%	47%	61%	74%
SUPD	<77%	77%	79%	82%	84%

MAPD - Adherence Measure Averages

PDP - Adherence Measure Averages

Appendix II: 2022 MAPD & PDP Performance Trends