

UPDATE

# STAR RATINGS: CHANGES FOR THE 2017 PLAN YEAR

An educational series from TriNet Third Party Network: Part 13

Every year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) make changes to its Five-Star Quality Rating System, better known as Star Ratings.

Star Ratings help consumers compare Medicare Advantage (MA) and Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans (MAPD) based on quality, cost and coverage. Star Ratings are also used as a financial incentive for plans to ensure high quality.

CMS released its 2017 Part C and D Medicare Star Ratings Data Oct. 11. The performance data includes updates to the calculation of measures in the program, changes to quality measures in future years and updates to the thresholds for Medicare Advantage and prescription drug plans (PDPs) for the measures in the Star Ratings program.

Here are the highlights of changes to the Star Ratings measures in 2017.

## **Medication Adherence for Hypertension (RASA)**

Patients who have one or more claims for sacubitril/valsartan (Entresto™) will be removed from the denominator and not included in the measure.

## **Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Program Completion Rate for Comprehensive Medication Reviews (CMR) Measure (Part D)**

CMS will implement data integrity checks to ensure the appropriateness of data used to support this measure.

## **Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes (SUPD) (Part D)**

This measure will begin as a display measure in 2017, and CMS recommends it remain a display measure for two years at this point in time.

### **Access to Preferred Cost-Sharing Pharmacies**

There will be no changes in preferred cost-sharing pharmacy guidance for 2017 due to improved access.

### **Annual MTM Eligibility Cost Threshold**

The threshold for the 2017 MTM program is \$3,919 in expected annual Medicare Part D drug costs.

### **Contracts with Consecutive Poor Performance**

Plans that have not achieved at least a three-star overall rating for the past three years will receive a non-renewal notice with the last effective date of Dec. 31. Star Ratings will not be calculated for contracts that will not be renewing in 2017.

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### **Join TriNet for a Star Ratings Webinar!**

TriNet Third Party Network and EQulPP™, a performance information management platform, are hosting webinars addressing the MTM Completion Rate for CMR and other important 2017 Star Ratings changes.

Tuesday, Oct. 25  
12 p.m. (CDT)

Thursday, Oct. 27  
8 a.m. (CDT)

**Register now:** <http://ow.ly/PP9x305kEIC>

The full Medicare Part D 2017 educational series is available online on the TriNet section of ***pbahealth.com***