## **PUBLIC SUBMISSION**

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Medicare Part C and Medicare Part D Enrollment Form Interviews (CMS-10816)

Comment On: CMS-2022-0132-0002

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals

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Comment on CMS-2022-0132-0002

## **Submitter Information**

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## **General Comment**

Responding to the Request for Comment for Document Identified: CMS-10816, Medicare Part C and Part D Enrollment Form Interviews, we have a few comments to provide regarding potential drivers of nonresponse to the race and ethnicity questions.

- 1. Beneficiaries may not be responding to the race/ethnicity questions because they might feel like it's an invasion of their privacy.
- 2. Some individuals may not understand why race/ethnicity questions are being asked.
- 3. Beneficiaries may also feel like it could be used against them (discrimination).
- 4. Beneficiaries could have concerns about bias (in pricing, services) could be a reason for non-response. Given how blended society has become, having accurate and appropriate categories may prove challenging (for example, what do people who are mixed race select?).
- 5. To help facilitate responses, perhaps agents/brokers could obtain this information at the conclusion of a sales activity (to assure that whatever plan was selected was not influenced by the question).
- 6. Another potential process to collect this information would be a voluntary mail card where the individual can remain anonymous, if the data is only to be used for statistics.