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Medicare Health Outcomes Survey Field Test (CMS-10861)

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Medicare Health Outcomes Survey Field Test (CMS-10861)

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General Comment

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed HOS field testing. We are in favor of improving the Medicare Health Outcome Survey. Providing an opportunity to complete the survey online should make the survey completion process easier for beneficiaries and hopefully improve the response rates. We have three recommendations:

- 1. We suggest that any physical letter to beneficiaries include a QR (Quick Response) Code to make accessing the site more convenient.
- 2. Any reduction in the number of questions would also help reduce the burden to beneficiaries and improve response rates.
- 3. To reduce beneficiary burden, we suggest that beneficiaries that are included in this field test be individuals that were not surveyed in the previous year and be excluded from next year's HOS survey.
- 4. Since plans are discouraged from asking beneficiaries the HOS questions and would find the responses helpful in serving our members, we recommend that all contracts that are included in the field testing be given the opportunity to receive the member-level data from their members.

Thanks for your consideration.