

## Technical Notes for Generating Stratified Reporting for Part C and D Star Ratings Measures

### Introduction

Stratified performance scores are reported for selected enrollee characteristics of interest on a subset of Part C and D Star Ratings measures. CMS may expand or otherwise modify over time the set of enrollee characteristics and measures for which stratified reports are generated. National performance scores are provided for comparison in separate Excel file downloads. This information can be used by contracts to inform and target their quality improvement initiatives.

### Calculating Overall and Stratified Performance

Each contract's overall and stratified performance for a measure was calculated by pooling two years of enrollee-level performance data (see Table 1 for measurement years used for each measure). Stratified scores were calculated by first grouping enrollees with the characteristic of interest (e.g., disabled enrollees) and then calculating scores within these groups. Overall and stratified scores are adjusted for year to account for situations where mean scores were, for the average contract, different in the two years (e.g., higher in year 2 than year 1, or vice versa) and/or contracts had different measure sample sizes across years. Measures that are case-mix adjusted in the Star Ratings were adjusted for all standard case-mix adjustors. To make the adjustment for changes in performance and sample sizes across the two years, regression models were estimated at the enrollee/year level and included contract fixed effects (i.e., indicators for each contract), a Year 2 indicator variable, and when applicable all standard case-mix adjustors. Scores were calculated to reflect performance in Year 2. This calculation is based on the average year effect across all contracts included in a given model rather than the Year 2-Year 1 difference for each individual contract. For measures where scores increased from Year 1 to Year 2, the Year 2 average will be higher than the average of Year 1 and Year 2 scores and vice versa. Overall and stratified scores may differ from scores used in the Star Ratings for either of the two years included in the calculations for individual contracts and also may differ from an average of those scores.

Scores were calculated using data from contracts that met the relevant denominator criterion for each measure after pooling two years of data for measures that are not case-mix adjusted in the Star Ratings. Measures that were in the Star Ratings for the most recent of the two years and on display for the first of the two years were also included using data from the Star Ratings for the most recent measurement year and from display for the first measurement year. For measures that are case-mix adjusted, scores were calculated using data from *all* contracts and later subset to contracts that met the relevant denominator criterion for each measure after pooling two years of data.

National performance scores were also year-adjusted using a similar approach excluding contract fixed effects in regression models.

Stratified performance was not calculated for a measure by a characteristic that is used as a case-mix adjustor for that measure in the Star Ratings. For example, CAHPS measures such as *Getting Needed Care* adjust for low-income subsidy (LIS)/dual eligibility (DE), so these measures are not stratified by LIS/DE status.

For Part D measures, performance was examined separately for MA-PD and PDP contracts.

No adjustments to scores were made to account for major disasters.

## Enrollee Characteristics Used to Stratify Performance Scores

Performance scores were stratified using two types of strata:

1. LIS/DE versus non-LIS/DE
2. Disabled versus non-disabled

The two sets of strata are not mutually exclusive. For example, some enrollees who are in the LIS/DE stratum are also in the disabled stratum if they possess both characteristics.

Within each year:

- Enrollees were considered LIS/DE if they were eligible for a Part D LIS and/or were partially or fully DE for Medicare and Medicaid in at least one month.
- Enrollees were identified as disabled based on their original reason for Medicare entitlement.

## Contracts Included in Contract-level and National Performance Calculations

Contracts were eligible to be included in the contract-level stratified reporting calculations for individual measures if they had at least 500 enrollees (regardless of the number of enrollees in each stratum) in December 2021. Enrollees were assigned to the contract they were enrolled in as of December of the measurement year. Contracts that only had data available for measurement year 2 were included; contracts that only had data available for measurement year 1 were excluded.

Additionally, contract-level overall performance is shown only for contracts that received a measure star for that measure *in the 2023 Star Ratings* and met the denominator criterion for the measure (after pooling both years of data). Contract-level stratified performance is shown only for contracts that received a measure star for that measure *in the 2023 Star Ratings*, met the denominator criterion for the measure/stratum (after pooling both years of data), and whose year-adjusted scores met the reliability criterion for the measure/stratum (see Table 1; also see “Calculating Overall and Stratified Performance”).

National performance on a measure was calculated based on enrollees from *all contracts* for measures that are case-mix adjusted in the Star Ratings, and from *all contracts receiving stars* for the given measure *in the 2023 Star Ratings* for measures that are not case-mix adjusted in the Star Ratings. National stratified performance on a measure was calculated by first grouping enrollees into strata and then calculating national scores within each stratum; no additional stratum specific denominator or reliability requirements were imposed. Not applying additional restrictions when calculating national stratified performance allows for a comparison between each contract’s performance within stratum to the care received by the average enrollee in the stratum across all contracts.

## Text Values Appearing in the Stratified Performance Data

**Not enough data available** indicates the contract did not meet the denominator criteria for the measure. We applied the same denominator criteria used for each measure in the Star Ratings (see Table 1), but applied it only to enrollees in the individual stratum (after pooling both years of data). For example, we required 100 or more LIS/DE enrollees in the denominator to receive a LIS/DE HEDIS-HOS measure score. This text also appears when a contract is not eligible for a measure to be included in

stratified reporting (this message does not indicate whether a contract is required to report the measure for Star Ratings).

**Not calculated** indicates stratified scores were not calculated for this measure for the given stratum (e.g., if the stratum characteristic is also used as a case-mix adjustor for that measure in the Star Ratings).

**Contract Performance Reliability** is a metric of how well a given contract's stratified measure score can be distinguished from other contracts' stratified measure scores. It ranges from 0 and 1, with higher values indicating more reliable scores, that is primarily reflecting true differences in performance rather than noise. This field can list one of the following values:

- Adequate: Reliability is at least 0.7.
- Low: Reliability is between 0.6 and 0.7 meaning there is more noise in the score than if the reliability was 0.7 or more. A low reliability score may give some indication of performance, but please use the score with caution.
- Very Low/Not Reportable: Reliability is less than 0.6 or the denominator for that measure is considered too small to calculate reliability or report the performance score.
  - We do not display stratified performance scores with very low reliability or performance scores that had denominators too small to report.

**Contract Performance Compared to National Performance** can list one of the following values:

- Similar: Contract performance within stratum is either less than 3 percentage points or not statistically significantly different from national stratum performance.
- Lower: Contract performance within stratum is at least 3 percentage points less than national stratum performance and the difference is statistically significant.
- Higher: Contract performance within stratum is at least 3 percentage points higher than national stratum performance and the difference is statistically significant.

Please refer to the Part C & D Star Ratings Technical Notes available on the CMS.gov [Part C and D Performance Data webpage](#) for data sources and more information about measure specifications.

**Table 1. Measures with Stratified Performance Scores**

<b>Measure Name</b>	<b>Measurement Year 1</b>	<b>Measurement Year 2</b>	<b>Denominator Criterion</b>
Annual Flu Vaccine	2021	2022	>= 30 enrollees
Controlling Blood Pressure	2020	2021	>= 30 enrollees
Breast Cancer Screening	2020	2021	>= 30 enrollees
Diabetes Care – Blood Sugar Controlled	2020	2021	>= 30 enrollees
Diabetes Care – Eye Exam	2020	2021	>= 30 enrollees
Diabetes Care – Kidney Disease Monitoring	2020	2021	>= 30 enrollees
Colorectal Cancer Screening	2020	2021	>= 30 enrollees
Medication Reconciliation Post-Discharge	2020	2021	>= 30 discharges
Osteoporosis Management in Women Who had a Fracture	2020	2021	>= 30 enrollees
Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease	2020	2021	>= 30 enrollees
Monitoring Physical Activity	2020	2021	>= 100 enrollees
Reducing the Risk of Falling	2020	2021	>= 100 enrollees
Improving Bladder Control	2020	2021	>= 100 enrollees
Getting Needed Care	2021	2022	>= 30 enrollees
Getting Appointments and Care Quickly	2021	2022	>= 30 enrollees
Customer Service	2021	2022	>= 30 enrollees
Rating of Health Care Quality	2021	2022	>= 30 enrollees
Rating of Health Plan	2021	2022	>= 30 enrollees
Care Coordination	2021	2022	>= 30 enrollees
Rating of Drug Plan	2021	2022	>= 30 enrollees
Getting Needed Prescription Drugs	2021	2022	>= 30 enrollees
MTM Program Completion Rate for CMR	2020	2021	> 30 enrollees
Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes	2020	2021	> 30 member-years

Note: The measure year listed for CAHPS and HOS measures is the year the survey was administered.