

## **Part D exceptions and appeals**

**ISSUE:** Part D is a voluntary prescription drug benefit in which Medicare contracts with private plans to deliver drug benefits to enrollees. CMS requires all plan sponsors to establish (within Part D guidelines) exceptions and appeals processes with an explicit goal of ensuring good access to needed medications.

**KEY POINTS:** At the October meeting, we will present recent information about Part D exceptions and appeals. We will also examine the potential benefits and obstacles to adoption of electronic tools such as real-time prescription benefit check and electronic prior authorization that may reduce the need for enrollees to use the exceptions and appeals process.

**ACTION:** Commissioners will discuss the material and directions for future work.