

# Blind Case Study: Leveraging Member Detail Level Data to Ensure Accurate Risk Scores and Payments

Medicare Advantage (MA) health plans must strive to ensure that their calculated risk scores and payments received by CMS are an accurate reflection of the members under their care.

In part, this is achieved by ensuring that all RAPS and EDPS data is submitted in a timely manner, and by reconciling expected risk scores and payments against actuals on a member basis.



## CHALLENGE:

A regional Medicare Advantage client reported a substantial (over \$3 million) gap between Centauri's PY2019 Final accrual estimate and the estimate they received from another vendor.

## SOLUTION:

In order to solve the discrepancy quickly, Centauri responded by immediately researching several member examples from the other vendor using the member level detail supporting Centauri's accrual estimate. In all examples, Centauri found that diagnosis codes were submitted prior to the published CMS deadline for the 2019PY Mid-Year payment but were not reflected in the actual payment. Note that this was previously identified by Centauri and later confirmed by CMS. On June 20, 2019, CMS had notified plans regarding specific diagnosis codes that were submitted and accepted by the March sweep deadline, but excluded from the PY2019 Mid-Year payment. CMS would include the affected codes in the PY2019 Final calculation.

## RESULT:

Mid-Year and Final estimates of risk score payment adjustments provide guidance on the receivable amounts Medicare Advantage (MA) health plans should accrue. Leveraging the supporting details for the Mid-Year and Final estimates allow MA plans to reconcile against the actual payment adjustments received from CMS (supporting details are standardly provided to Centauri's clients).

Because Centauri swiftly pivoted its 2019PY Final accrual logic in consideration of the CMS guidance about the affected codes, it was determined that Centauri's PY2019 Final accrual estimates presented the most accurate view in terms of the amount that the MA plan should expect to receive from the PY2019 Final adjustment. MA plans should also be especially attentive to the actionable intelligence provided by comparative analytics of submitted and accepted RAPS vs. EDPS data to help close operational gaps. Centauri routinely performs this type of analysis for our clients.

Detailed data supporting accrual estimates and from comparative RAPS vs. EDPS analytics are both critical parts of ensuring that payments received from CMS accurately reflect the health conditions of a MA plan's membership.

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