

TODAY'S MESSAGE

VIDEO AVAILABLE ON MANAGING HIGH-RISK MEDICATIONS IN THE ELDERLY

VISIT MEDICARE ADVANTAGE STARS SECTION OF PROVIDER RESOURCE CENTER

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield West Virginia has produced [a brief informational video](#) for our network physicians and their patient care staff members about the use of high-risk medications in the elderly. General information is provided about the Beers list, which identifies potentially inappropriate medications for adults ages 65 and over. The Beers list serves as a gold standard reference for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) and Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA). CMS rates Medicare Advantage plans and prescription drug plans separately on a scale of one to five stars, with five representing the highest quality. The Star rating is an overall measure of the plan's quality. Managing high-risk medications in the elderly is one of the measures in the Star rating system and looks at the percentage of a plan's members who are on high-risk medications.

Available on our recently improved Medicare Advantage Stars page (read more, below) on the Provider Resource Center, the video Highmark West Virginia has produced offers basic information to encourage prescribers to weigh the risks versus the benefits of ordering certain medications for elderly patients. In addition to using the link above, you can access the video on the Medicare Advantage Stars page by clicking on *Avoidance of High-Risk Medications in the Elderly* in the 2015 MA Incentive Measure Table.

Updates to Follow

A revision to the Beers list is pending in late 2015. Therefore, an additional video is planned for release once the new list is available, and the video will provide information on specific medications. Please watch the Today's Messages page for updates.

Expanded Medicare Advantage Stars Page on Provider Resource Center

Check out Highmark West Virginia's recently expanded Medicare Advantage Stars page on our online Provider Resource Center. When visiting the Resource Center through NaviNet® or from under the Helpful Links section of our website, simply click on the *Medicare Advantage Stars* link at left. The improved Stars page contains a wealth of helpful tools, resources and links, including:

- an overview of the Stars program, including scope, scoring and incentive payout
- archived educational sessions, including webinars
- a table listing all current Medicare Advantage Stars measures by name and that are clickable links leading to informational modules on each measure
- links to helpful general references and resources, including a HEDIS measures reference guide and a list of procedure codes to assist in closing care gaps
- and more!

Bookmark this valuable site today and encourage your patient care and office staff to visit it often!

