

(b) *Coverage Gap Discount Reconciliation.* CMS reconciles interim payments with invoiced manufacturer discount amounts made available to each Part D plan's enrollee under the Discount Program.

(c) *Manufacturer bankruptcy.* In the event that a manufacturer declares bankruptcy, as described in Title 11 of the United States Code, and as a result of the bankruptcy, does not pay the quarterly invoices described in § 423.2315(b)(10) used for a particular contract year's Coverage Gap Discount Reconciliation described in paragraph (b) of this section, CMS adjusts the Coverage Gap Discount Reconciliation amount of each of the affected Part D sponsors to account for the total unpaid quarterly invoiced amount owed to each of the Part D sponsors for that particular contract year being reconciled.

[77 FR 22172, Apr. 12, 2012, as amended at 80 FR 7965, Feb. 12, 2015]

§ 423.2325 Provision of applicable discounts.

(a) *General rule.* On behalf of the manufacturers, Part D sponsors must provide applicable beneficiaries with applicable discounts on applicable drugs at the point-of-sale.

(b) *Discount determination.* (1) Part D sponsors must determine the following:

(i) Whether an enrollee is an applicable beneficiary (as defined in § 423.100).

(ii) Whether a Part D drug is an applicable drug (as defined in § 423.100).

(iii) The amount of the applicable discount (as defined in § 423.2305) to be provided at the point-of-sale.

(2) Part D sponsors must make retroactive adjustments to the applicable discount as necessary to reflect changes to the claim or beneficiary eligibility determined after the date of dispensing.

(3) Part D sponsors must determine whether any affected beneficiaries need to be notified by the Part D sponsor that an applicable drug is eligible for Part D coverage whenever CMS specifies a retroactive effective date for a labeler code and notify such beneficiaries.

(c) *Exception to point-of-sale requirement.* Part D sponsors must provide an applicable discount for applicable

drugs submitted by applicable beneficiaries via paper claims, including out-of-network and in-network paper claims, if such claims are payable under the Part D plan.

(d) *Collection of data.* Part D sponsors must provide CMS with appropriate data on the applicable discounts provided by the Part D sponsors in a manner specified by CMS.

(e) *Supplemental benefits.* (1) An applicable discount must be applied to beneficiary cost-sharing after supplemental benefits (as defined in § 423.100) have been applied to the claim for an applicable drug.

(2) No applicable discount is available if supplemental benefits (as defined in § 423.100) eliminate the coverage gap so that a beneficiary has zero cost-sharing.

(f) *Other health or prescription drug coverage.* An applicable discount must be applied to beneficiary cost-sharing when Part D is the primary payer before any other health or prescription drug coverage is applied.

(g) *Pharmacy prompt payment.* Part D sponsors must reimburse a network pharmacy (as defined in § 423.100) the amount of the applicable discount no later than the applicable number of calendar days after the date of dispensing of an applicable drug. For long-term care and home infusion pharmacies, the date of dispensing can be interpreted as the date the pharmacy submits the discounted claim for reimbursement.

(h) *Treatment of employer group waiver plans.* As of 2014, Part D sponsors offering employer group waiver plans must provide applicable discounts to applicable beneficiaries who are employer group waiver plan enrollees as determined consistent with the defined standard benefit.

[77 FR 22172, Apr. 12, 2012, as amended at 80 FR 7966, Feb. 12, 2015]

§ 423.2330 Manufacturer discount payment audit and dispute resolution.

(a) *Third-party Administration (TPA) audits.* (1) Manufacturers participating in the Discount Program may conduct periodic audits, no more often than annually, directly or through third parties as specified in this section.

(2) The manufacturer must provide the TPA with 60 days notice of the reasonable basis for the audit and a description of the information required for the audit.

(3) The manufacturer must have the right to audit a statistically significant sample of data and information held by the TPA that were used to determine applicable discounts for applicable drugs having NDCs with the manufacturer's FDA-assigned labeler code(s). Such data and information will be made available on-site, and with the exception of work papers, such information cannot be removed from the audit site.

(4) The auditor for the manufacturer may release only an opinion of the audit results and is prohibited from releasing other information obtained from the audit, including work papers, to its client, employer, or any other party.

(b) *Manufacturer audits.* (1) A manufacturer is subject to periodic audit by CMS no more often than annually, directly or through third parties, as specified in this section.

(2) CMS provides the manufacturer with 60 days notice of the audit and a description of the information required for the audit.

(3) CMS has the right to audit appropriate data, including data related to a manufacturer's FDA-assigned labeler codes, NDC last lot expiration dates, utilization, and pricing information relied on by the manufacturer to dispute quarterly invoices, and any other data CMS determines are necessary to carry out the Discount Program.

(c) *Dispute resolution.* (1) Manufacturers may dispute applicable discounts invoiced to the manufacturer on quarterly invoices by providing notice of the dispute to the TPA in a manner specified by CMS within 60 days of receipt of the information that is the subject of the dispute.

(2) Such notice must be accompanied by supporting evidence that is material, specific, and related to the dispute in a manner specified by CMS.

(3) The manufacturer must not withhold any invoiced discount payments pending dispute resolution with the sole exception of invoiced amounts for applicable drugs that do not have label-

er codes provided by the manufacturer to CMS in accordance with § 423.2315(b)(4). If payment is withheld in accordance with this paragraph, the manufacturer must notify the TPA and applicable Part D sponsors within 38 days of receipt of the applicable invoice that payment is being withheld for this reason.

(4) If the manufacturer receives an unfavorable determination from the TPA, or the dispute is not resolved within 60 calendar days of the TPA's receipt of the notice of dispute, the manufacturer may request review by the independent review entity contracted by CMS within—

(i) Thirty calendar days of the unfavorable determination; or

(ii) Ninety calendar days after the TPA's receipt of the notice of dispute if dispute is not resolved within 60 days, whichever is earlier.

(5) The independent review entity must make a determination within 90 calendar days of receipt of the manufacturer's request for review.

(6)(i) CMS or a manufacturer that receives an unfavorable determination from the independent review entity may request review by the CMS Administrator within 30 calendar days of receipt of the notification of such determination.

(ii) The decision of the CMS Administrator is final and binding.

(7) CMS adjusts future invoices (or implements an alternative reimbursement process if determined necessary by CMS) if the dispute is resolved in favor of the manufacturer.

[77 FR 22172, Apr. 12, 2012, as amended at 85 FR 72909, Nov. 16, 2020]

§ 423.2335 Beneficiary dispute resolution.

The Part D coverage determination and appeals process as described in §§ 423.558 through 423.638 applies to beneficiary disputes involving the availability and amount of applicable discounts under the Discount Program.

§ 423.2340 Compliance monitoring and civil money penalties.

(a) *General rule.* CMS monitors compliance by a manufacturer with the terms of the Discount Program Agreement.