2026 Categorical Adjustment Index Measure Supplement

This supplement provides details related to the adjusted measure set for the 2026 Categorical Adjustment Index (CAI).
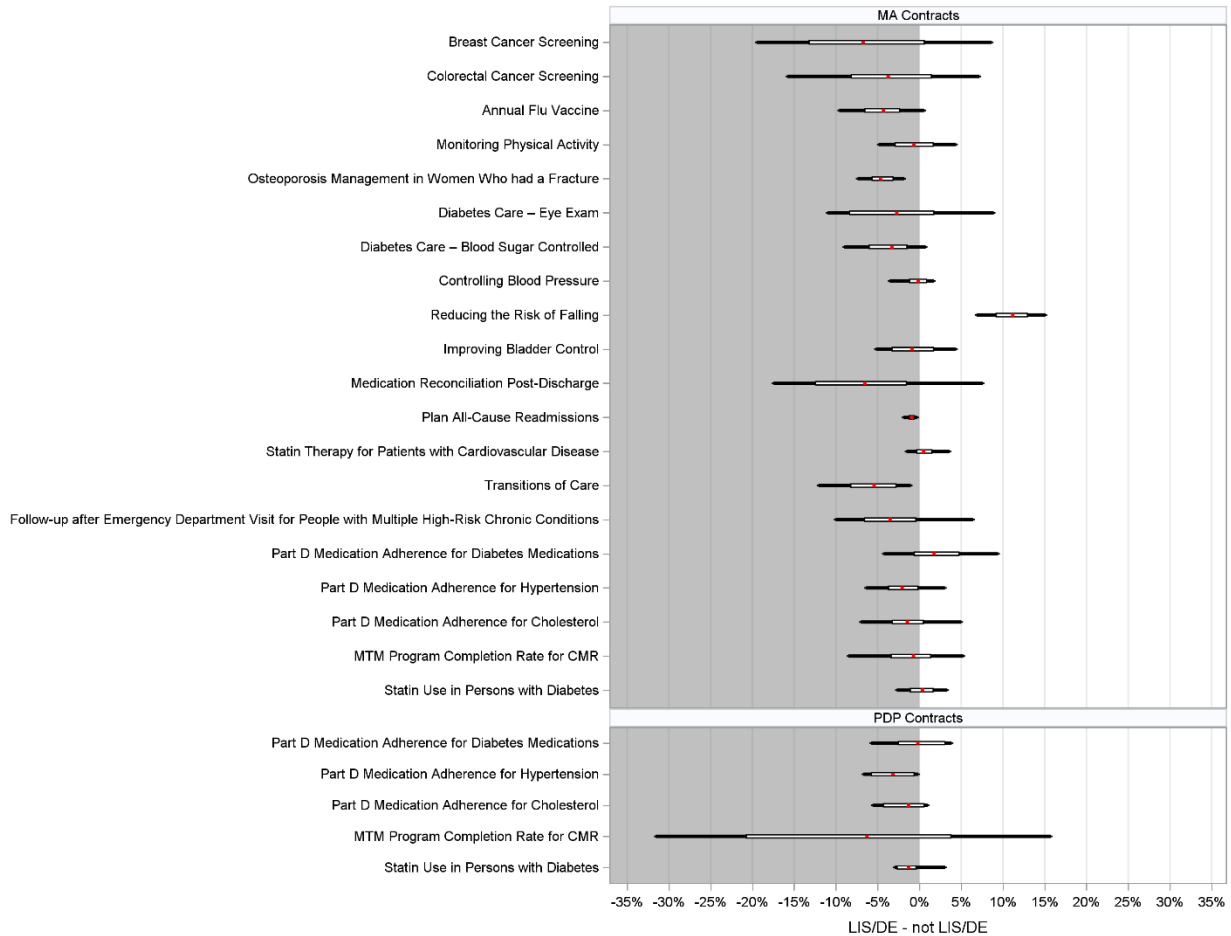
CMS has updated the analyses examining the variability of the within-contract differences in performance between low-income subsidy/dual eligible (LIS/DE) and non-LIS/DE beneficiaries for the set of measures included in the 2026 CAI. This information is for informational purposes only.

- Figure 1 depicts the within-contract LIS/DE and non-LIS/DE differences in performance for each measure for the contracts that received a measure Star Rating in the 2025 Star Ratings. The figure provides (1) the variability of the within-contract differences for MA contracts and, (2) the variability for PDPs.
- Figure 2 is provided to aid in the interpretation of the visuals shown in Figure 1.
- Tables 1 through 4 provide descriptive statistics of the within-contract differences to supplement the visuals in Figure 1.
    - Tables 1 and 3 provide the overall summary statistics for central tendency and dispersion for MA and PDP contracts, respectively.
    - Tables 2 and 4 provide specific percentiles of the distribution of the within-contract differences for MA and PDP contracts, respectively.
- Tables 5 through 16 provide the rating-specific categories for classification of contracts based on the percentage of LIS/DE and disabled beneficiaries along with the final adjustment categories.
    - Table 5 provides the range of the percentages that correspond to the LIS/DE categories determined by dividing the distribution of MA contracts' LIS/DE percentages into ten equal-sized groups for the CAI for the overall Star Rating.
    - Table 6 provides the range of the percentages that correspond to the disability quintiles for the categorization of MA contracts for the CAI for the overall Star Rating.
    - Table 7 provides the description of each of the final adjustment categories for the overall Star Rating for MA contracts and the associated values of the CAI.
    - Tables 8 through 10 provide CAI values for the Part C summary rating.
    - Tables 11 through 13 provide CAI values for the Part D summary rating for MA-PDs.
    - Tables 14 through 16 provide CAI values for the Part D summary rating for PDPs.

For the 2026 Star Ratings, the adjusted measures are: Breast Cancer Screening, Colorectal Cancer Screening, Annual Flu Vaccine, Monitoring Physical Activity, Osteoporosis Management in Women Who had a Fracture, Diabetes Care – Eye Exam, Diabetes Care – Blood Sugar Controlled, Controlling Blood Pressure, Reducing the Risk of Falling, Improving Bladder Control, Medication Reconciliation Post-Discharge, Plan All-Cause Readmissions, Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease, Transitions of Care, Follow-up after Emergency Department Visit for People with Multiple High-Risk Chronic Conditions, Part D Medication Adherence for Diabetes Medications, Part D Medication Adherence for Hypertension, Part D Medication Adherence for Cholesterol, MTM Program Completion Rate for CMR, and Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes.

Figure 1 shows distributions of within-contract LIS/DE and non-LIS/DE differences in performance for the contracts that received a measure Star Rating. The shaded area corresponds to worse performance for LIS/DE beneficiaries, and the non-shaded area corresponds to better performance for LIS/DE beneficiaries, relative to non-LIS/DE beneficiaries. Distributions of the within-contract differences are provided first for MA contracts, followed by PDPs.
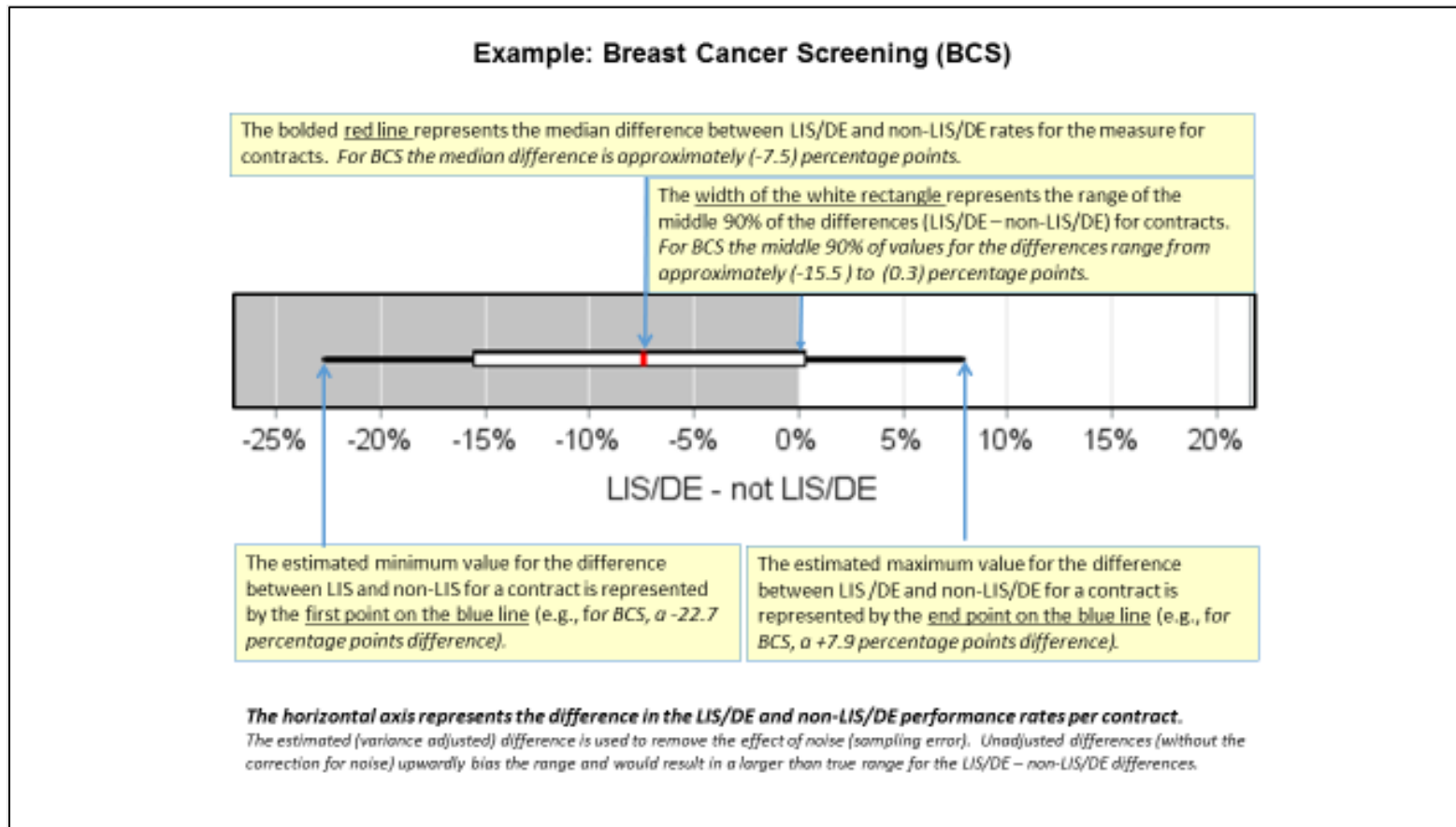
Figure 1: Distribution of Within-Contract LIS/DE Differences in Performance across MA and PDP Contracts

NOTE: Each component of the Transitions of Care composite measure was examined separately, and then within-contract LIS/DE differences were averaged for contracts with calculated differences for all four components; individual component differences are not shown.

Figure 2 is provided to aid in the interpretation of the visuals shown in Figure 1.

Figure 2: Interpretation of the Visual of the Distribution of Within-Contract LIS/DE Differences in Performance across Contracts *

Example: Breast Cancer Screening (BCS)

The bolded red line represents the median difference between LIS/DE and non-LIS/DE rates for the measure for contracts. For BCS the median difference is approximately (-7.5) percentage points.

The width of the white rectangle represents the range of the middle 90% of the differences (LIS/DE – non-LIS/DE) for contracts. For BCS the middle 90% of values for the differences range from approximately (-15.5) to (0.3) percentage points.

LIS/DE - not LIS/DE

The estimated minimum value for the difference between LIS and non-LIS for a contract is represented by the first point on the blue line (e.g., for BCS, a -22.7 percentage points difference).

The estimated maximum value for the difference between LIS/DE and non-LIS/DE for a contract is represented by the end point on the blue line (e.g., for BCS, a +7.9 percentage points difference).

The horizontal axis represents the difference in the LIS/DE and non-LIS/DE performance rates per contract. The estimated (variance adjusted) difference is used to remove the effect of noise (sampling error). Unadjusted differences (without the correction for noise) upwardly bias the range and would result in a larger than true range for the LIS/DE – non-LIS/DE differences.

* The example is not based on this year's results and thus, the values in the visual do not match the values in Figure 1 or Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1 shows overall summary descriptive statistics of the within-contract differences for MA contracts, and Table 2 provides specific percentiles of the distribution of the within-contract differences for MA contracts.

Table 1: Summary Statistics of the Within-Contract LIS/DE Differences for MA Contracts

Measure Name	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
Breast Cancer Screening	-0.06745	-0.06748	-0.19483	0.08647	0.03972
Colorectal Cancer Screening	-0.03604	-0.03746	-0.15824	0.07170	0.02864
Annual Flu Vaccine	-0.04309	-0.04300	-0.09620	0.00588	0.01291
Monitoring Physical Activity	-0.00652	-0.00656	-0.04881	0.04386	0.01334
Osteoporosis Management in Women Who had a Fracture	-0.04574	-0.04660	-0.07414	-0.01822	0.00812
Diabetes Care – Eye Exam	-0.02894	-0.02713	-0.11014	0.08906	0.03068
Diabetes Care – Blood Sugar Controlled	-0.03410	-0.03280	-0.09011	0.00753	0.01345
Controlling Blood Pressure	-0.00158	-0.00153	-0.03567	0.01733	0.00612
Reducing the Risk of Falling	0.11077	0.11169	0.06835	0.15104	0.01173
Improving Bladder Control	-0.00869	-0.00878	-0.05228	0.04394	0.01453
Medication Reconciliation Post-Discharge	-0.06611	-0.06549	-0.17466	0.07583	0.03362
Plan All-Cause Readmissions	-0.00915	-0.00900	-0.01936	-0.00264	0.00186
Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease	0.00533	0.00517	-0.01557	0.03620	0.00532
Transitions of Care	-0.05415	-0.05431	-0.12083	-0.01039	0.01677
Follow-up after Emergency Department Visit for People with Multiple High-Risk Chronic Conditions	-0.03506	-0.03521	-0.10047	0.06437	0.01843
Part D Medication Adherence for Diabetes Medications	0.01831	0.01754	-0.04276	0.09426	0.01573
Part D Medication Adherence for Hypertension	-0.02073	-0.02064	-0.06410	0.03054	0.01061
Part D Medication Adherence for Cholesterol	-0.01413	-0.01452	-0.07017	0.05021	0.01208
MTM Program Completion Rate for CMR	-0.00849	-0.00722	-0.08480	0.05257	0.01478

Measure Name	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes	0.00345	0.00349	-0.02713	0.03333	0.00747

NOTE: Each component of the Transitions of Care composite measure was examined separately, and then within-contract LIS/DE differences were averaged for contracts with calculated differences for all four components; individual component differences are not shown.

Table 2: Within-Contract LIS/DE Difference Distribution Values for MA Contracts[1]

Measure Name	P2.5	P5	P10	P25	P50	P75	P90	P95	P97.5
Breast Cancer Screening	-0.1464	-0.13214	-0.11795	-0.09060	-0.06748	-0.04677	-0.01735	0.00577	0.01518
Colorectal Cancer Screening	-0.09364	-0.08160	-0.06982	-0.05096	-0.03746	-0.02174	0.00005	0.01422	0.02326
Annual Flu Vaccine	-0.07048	-0.06531	-0.05874	-0.04979	-0.04300	-0.03495	-0.02844	-0.02378	-0.01770
Monitoring Physical Activity	-0.03682	-0.02908	-0.02280	-0.01358	-0.00656	0.00089	0.00892	0.01649	0.02493
Osteoporosis Management in Women Who had a Fracture	-0.06512	-0.05665	-0.05380	-0.05097	-0.04660	-0.04084	-0.03546	-0.03161	-0.02915
Diabetes Care – Eye Exam	-0.09579	-0.08359	-0.06887	-0.04601	-0.02713	-0.01171	0.00714	0.01720	0.03110
Diabetes Care – Blood Sugar Controlled	-0.06432	-0.06019	-0.05162	-0.04122	-0.03280	-0.02440	-0.01884	-0.01496	-0.01211
Controlling Blood Pressure	-0.01439	-0.01168	-0.00909	-0.00431	-0.00153	0.00134	0.00569	0.00846	0.01098
Reducing the Risk of Falling	0.08441	0.09193	0.09618	0.10358	0.11169	0.11751	0.12416	0.12926	0.13472
Improving Bladder Control	-0.03601	-0.03268	-0.02714	-0.01795	-0.00878	-0.00096	0.00968	0.01687	0.02260
Medication Reconciliation Post-Discharge	-0.13870	-0.12440	-0.10761	-0.08738	-0.06549	-0.04265	-0.02173	-0.01571	-0.01045
Plan All-Cause Readmissions	-0.01319	-0.01212	-0.01124	-0.01025	-0.00900	-0.00809	-0.00707	-0.00633	-0.00527
Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease	-0.00563	-0.00319	0.00005	0.00308	0.00517	0.00705	0.01169	0.01482	0.01683
Transitions of Care	-0.09035	-0.08220	-0.07476	-0.06455	-0.05431	-0.04203	-0.03325	-0.02799	-0.02194

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[1] The values provided in the table correspond to the percentiles in the distribution of the within-contract LIS/DE differences for MA contracts (these differences are also depicted in Figure 1).

Measure Name	P2.5	P5	P10	P25	P50	P75	P90	P95	P97.5
Follow-up after Emergency Department Visit for People with Multiple High-Risk Chronic Conditions	-0.07085	-0.06566	-0.05677	-0.04367	-0.03521	-0.02691	-0.01275	-0.00438	0.00390
Part D Medication Adherence for Diabetes Medications	-0.01493	-0.00624	-0.00025	0.01071	0.01754	0.02522	0.03753	0.04730	0.05399
Part D Medication Adherence for Hypertension	-0.04053	-0.03697	-0.03320	-0.02694	-0.02064	-0.01597	-0.00996	-0.00190	0.00496
Part D Medication Adherence for Cholesterol	-0.03815	-0.03247	-0.02707	-0.01984	-0.01452	-0.00911	-0.00206	0.00467	0.01257
MTM Program Completion Rate for CMR	-0.04418	-0.03383	-0.02471	-0.01438	-0.00722	-0.00238	0.00360	0.01339	0.02780
Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes	-0.01512	-0.01089	-0.00455	0.00066	0.00349	0.00635	0.01149	0.01637	0.02083

NOTE: Each component of the Transitions of Care composite measure was examined separately, and then within-contract LIS/DE differences were averaged for contracts with calculated differences for all four components; individual component differences are not shown.

Table 3 provides the overall summary statistics for central tendency and dispersion for PDP contracts, and Table 4 shows specific percentiles of the distribution of the within-contract differences for PDP contracts.

Table 3: Summary Statistics of the Within-Contract LIS/DE Differences for PDPs

Measure Name	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
Part D Medication Adherence for Diabetes Medications	-0.00211	-0.00192	-0.05776	0.03854	0.01632
Part D Medication Adherence for Hypertension	-0.03259	-0.03164	-0.06740	-0.00136	0.01363
Part D Medication Adherence for Cholesterol	-0.01523	-0.01323	-0.05612	0.00998	0.01434
MTM Program Completion Rate for CMR	-0.07215	-0.06275	-0.31569	0.15739	0.08491
Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes	-0.01304	-0.01300	-0.02978	0.03083	0.00866

Table 4: Within-Contract LIS/DE Difference Distribution Values for PDPs[2]

Measure Name	P2.5	P5	P10	P25	P50	P75	P90	P95	P97.5
Part D Medication Adherence for Diabetes Medications	-0.02571	-0.02519	-0.02377	-0.00832	-0.00192	0.00438	0.01927	0.03051	0.03464
Part D Medication Adherence for Hypertension	-0.05936	-0.05744	-0.05406	-0.03926	-0.03164	-0.02549	-0.01885	-0.00641	-0.00547
Part D Medication Adherence for Cholesterol	-0.05156	-0.04305	-0.03811	-0.02069	-0.01323	-0.00642	0.00058	0.00548	0.00868
MTM Program Completion Rate for CMR	-0.25712	-0.20731	-0.17895	-0.10523	-0.06275	-0.01551	0.00107	0.03774	0.12111
Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes	-0.02836	-0.02665	-0.02085	-0.01654	-0.01300	-0.01040	-0.00499	-0.00410	-0.00166

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[2] The values provided in the table correspond to the percentiles in the distribution of the within-contract LIS/DE differences for PDP contracts (these differences are also depicted in Figure 1).

Table 5 provides the range of the percentages that correspond to the initial LIS/DE groups for the determination of CAI values for the overall rating. With the exception of the highest category, the upper limit for each category is not included in that category, but rather the next (higher) category. For example, in Table 5, if the percentage of beneficiaries who are LIS/DE in a contract is 55.108425%, the contract's LIS/DE initial category is L8. Table 6 shows disability quintiles for the determination of the CAI values for the overall rating.

Table 5: Categorization of MA Contracts into Initial LIS/DE Groups for the Overall Rating

LIS/DE Initial Group	Percentage of Contract's Beneficiaries who are LIS/DE
1	0.000000 to less than 6.092755
2	6.092755 to less than 9.274484
3	9.274484 to less than 13.191153
4	13.191153 to less than 18.339007
5	18.339007 to less than 26.699929
6	26.699929 to less than 38.938694
7	38.938694 to less than 55.108425
8	55.108425 to less than 78.990228
9	78.990228 to less than 100.000000
10	100.000000

Table 6: Categorization of MA Contracts into Disability Quintiles for the Overall Rating

Disability Quintile	Percentage of Contract's Beneficiaries who are Disabled
1	0.000000 to less than 14.248145
2	14.248145 to less than 20.849011
3	20.849011 to less than 29.981129
4	29.981129 to less than 43.027888
5	43.027888 to 100.000000

Table 7 provides the description of each of the final adjustment categories for the overall Star Rating for MA contracts and the associated values of the CAI.

Table 7: Final Adjustment Categories and CAI Values for the Overall Rating

Final Adjustment Category	LIS/DE Initial Group	Disability Quintile	CAI Value
1	L1	D1	-0.063262
2	L2-L3	D1	-0.040422
	L1-L3	D2	
	L1-L2	D3	
3	L4-L5	D1	-0.017803
	L4	D2	
4	L6-L8	D1	0.003256
	L5-L6	D2	
	L3 -L5	D3	
	L1-L3	D4-D5	
5	L9-L10	D1	0.018790
	L7-L10	D2	
	L6-L8	D3	
	L4-L6	D4-D5	
6	L7	D4	0.045683
7	L8	D4	0.058145
	L7-L8	D5	
8	L9-L10	D3-D4	0.101257
	L9	D5	
9	L10	D5	0.145515

Tables 8 and 9 provide the range of the percentages that correspond to the initial LIS/DE groups and disability quintiles for the initial categories for the determination of the CAI values for the Part C summary rating.

Table 8: Categorization of MA Contracts into Initial LIS/DE Groups for the Part C Summary Rating

LIS/DE Initial Group	Percentage of Contract's Beneficiaries who are LIS/DE
1	0.000000 to less than 5.954454
2	5.954454 to less than 9.130047
3	9.130047 to less than 12.937535
4	12.937535 to less than 18.051788
5	18.051788 to less than 26.285153
6	26.285153 to less than 38.318544
7	38.318544 to less than 54.171489
8	54.171489 to less than 78.912575
9	78.912575 to less than 100.000000
10	100.000000

Table 9: Categorization of MA Contracts into Disability Quintiles for the Part C Summary Rating

Disability Quintile	Percentage of Contract's Beneficiaries who are Disabled
1	0.000000 to less than 14.052399
2	14.052399 to less than 20.586681
3	20.586681 to less than 29.918328
4	29.918328 to less than 42.948173
5	42.948173 to 100.000000

Table 10 provides the description of each of the final adjustment categories for the Part C summary rating and the associated values of the CAI.

Table 10: Final Adjustment Categories and CAI Values for the Part C Summary Rating

Final Adjustment Category	LIS/DE Initial Group	Disability Quintile	CAI Value
1	L1	D1	-0.058259
2	L2-L3	D1	-0.036927
	L1-L2	D2	
3	L4	D1	-0.013699
	L3-L4	D2	
	L1-L3	D3	
4	L5-L8	D1	0.004022
	L5-L7	D2	
	L4-L7	D3	
	L1-L5	D4-D5	
5	L6-L7	D4-D5	0.032302
6	L9-L10	D1-D3	0.059788
	L8	D2-D5	
7	L9-L10	D4	0.080451
	L9	D5	
8	L10	D5	0.102370

Tables 11 and 12 provide the range of the percentages that correspond to the initial LIS/DE groups and the disability quintiles for the initial categories for the determination of the CAI values for the Part D summary rating for MA-PDs.

Table 11: Categorization of MA-PD Contracts into Initial LIS/DE Groups for the Part D Summary Rating

LIS/DE Initial Group	Percentage of Contract's Beneficiaries who are LIS/DE
1	0.000000 to less than 6.444755
2	6.444755 to less than 10.035143
3	10.035143 to less than 14.606291
4	14.606291 to less than 20.303651
5	20.303651 to less than 30.231295
6	30.231295 to less than 42.953664
7	42.953664 to less than 61.465546
8	61.465546 to less than 95.305544
9	95.305544 to less than 100.000000
10	100.000000

Table 12: Categorization of MA-PD Contracts into Disability Quintiles for the Part D Summary Rating

Disability Quintile	Percentage of Contract's Beneficiaries who are Disabled
1	0.000000 to less than 14.421553
2	14.421553 to less than 21.736420
3	21.736420 to less than 31.819192
4	31.819192 to less than 45.115107
5	45.115107 to 100.000000

Table 13 provides the description of each of the final adjustment categories for the Part D summary rating for MA-PDs and the associated values of the CAI.

Table 13: Final Adjustment Categories and CAI Values for the Part D Summary Rating for MA-PDs

Final Adjustment Category	LIS/DE Initial Group	Disability Quintile	CAI Value
1	L1	D1	-0.033144
2	L2-L8	D1	-0.014987
	L1-L4	D2	
	L1	D3	
3	L5-L8	D2	-0.002688
	L2-L8	D3	
	L1-L3	D4-D5	
4	L4-L8	D4	0.046282
	L4-L7	D5	
5	L9-L10	D1-D4	0.072332
	L8-L9	D5	
6	L10	D5	0.128476

Tables 14 and 15 provide the range of the percentages that correspond to the LIS/DE and disability quartiles for the initial categories for the determination of the CAI values for the Part D summary rating for PDPs. Quartiles are used for both dimensions (LIS/DE and disability) due to the limited number of PDPs as compared to MA contracts.

Table 14: Categorization of PDP Contracts into LIS/DE Quartiles for the Part D Summary Rating

LIS/DE Quartile	Percentage of Contract's Beneficiaries who are LIS/DE
1	0.000000 to less than 1.351684
2	1.351684 to less than 2.907975
3	2.907975 to less than 4.682845
4	4.682845 to 100.000000

Table 15: Categorization of PDP Contracts into Disability Quartiles for the Part D Summary Rating

Disability Quartile	Percentage of Contract's Beneficiaries who are Disabled
1	0.000000 to less than 6.315789
2	6.315789 to less than 8.540366
3	8.540366 to less than 12.638758
4	12.638758 to 100.000000

Table 16 provides the description of each of the final adjustment categories for the Part D summary rating for PDPs and the associated values of the CAI.

Table 16: Final Adjustment Categories and CAI Values for the Part D Summary Rating for PDPs

Final Adjustment Category	LIS/DE Quartile	Disability Quartile	CAI Value
1	L1-L2	D1-D2	-0.227881
2	L3-L4	D1-D3	-0.082454
	L1-L2	D3-D4	
3	L3-L4	D4	0.025549

Please note that the CAI values for the Part D summary rating for PDPs are different from the CAI values for the Part D summary rating for MA contracts. Under §§ 422.166(f)(2)(i)(A) and 423.186(f)(2)(i)(A), categories are chosen to enforce monotonicity (i.e., adjustment values increase as percent LIS/DE and percent disabled increases) in the final adjustment categories. There are three final adjustment categories for PDPs for the Part D summary rating.