

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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CENTER FOR DRUG and HEALTH PLAN CHOICE

TO: Medicare Advantage Organizations and 1876 Cost Plans

FROM: Cynthia G. Tudor, Ph.D., Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: Update to the Technical Specifications for Part C Medicare Advantage and 1876 Cost Plan Reporting

DATE: February 25, 2010

CMS has received a large number of questions regarding the CY2009 Part C Reporting Requirements through the dedicated email address and from various other sources. To address each question in a way that all Part C Sponsors can benefit from the response, CMS is pleased to release an update to the Part C Reporting Requirements Technical Specifications. This update seeks only to provide clarifying information and in no way changes the actual reporting requirements as they were approved under the OMB PRA process. This document will be posted on the external CMS website at the following link: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HealthPlansGenInfo/16_ReportingRequirements.asp#TopOfPage and on the HPMS Plan Reporting site.

This update to the Part C Technical Specifications primarily contains clarifying information for the reporting sections that are due on February 28, 2010, for data collected in 2009, specifically Provider Network Adequacy, Grievances, Organization Determinations/Reconsiderations, Employer Group Plan Sponsors, PFFS Plan Enrollment Verification Calls, PFFS Provider Payment Dispute Resolution Process, Agent Compensation Structure, Agent Training and Testing, and Plan Oversight of Agents. It is our intention to provide future updates to the Technical Specifications in advance of when each reporting element is due for the first time in order to provide clarification on those reporting elements.

Comments or questions on all Part C Reporting Requirements should continue to be sent via email to partcplanreporting@cms.hhs.gov and include the title of the specific element to which your question applies in the subject line. Please be aware that due to the volume of questions this mailbox receives, individual responses to questions may not be possible. Questioners should look to the next release of the Technical Specifications to provide the requested clarifying information.