

Primary A/B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Fact Sheet

September 2005

- CMS has developed and released four Requests for Information (RFI) related to the Primary A/B MACs. CMS is seeking industry feedback, comments, questions or concerns. This feedback will assist CMS in refining the documents prior to the release of a formal Request for Proposal. All procurement related information is provided on FedBizOpps at: <http://www.fedbizopps.gov>.
- The Primary A/B MAC Statement of Work (SOW) is in the final review stage. A Request for Information (RFI) on the SOW was published on February 25, 2005 and the comment period closed on April 1. Comments from industry were received and considered by CMS during the revision of the SOW.
- CMS released the Primary A/B MAC proposed performance standards as a second RFI on April 11, 2005. The comment period closed May 11. Comments were received from industry and considered by CMS staff in making revisions to the performance standards.
- CMS released a third RFI for the Primary A/B MAC on June 3, 2005. It contains the RFP sections H, L, and M; the Concept of Operations; the Implementation Handbook; Deliverables; and Government Furnished Property. The comment period closed July 5, 2005 and CMS reviewed and considered all industry comments received while making revisions.
- CMS released a revised SOW as the fourth RFI on September 3, 2005. The comment period will be open until September 14, 2005. This RFI is available for review on the FedBizOpps website.
- CMS' Primary A/B MAC procurement schedule anticipates releasing the Request for Proposal (RFP) in September 2005 with contract award for the first Primary A/B MAC, Jurisdiction 3, in June 2006. A pre-proposal conference is expected to be held sometime after the release of the RFP for interested parties. CMS will publicly announce the date, time and location of this conference.
- CMS has decided that it will continue to utilize functional contractors in the future to increase the efficiency of Medicare services for beneficiaries and providers. These include the coordination of benefits contractor and program safeguard contractors. In addition, CMS will implement additional functional contractors, such as qualified independent contractors for Medicare appeals, beneficiary contact centers and data centers.

- CMS continues to consider the role incentives will play in the Primary A/B MAC. Financial incentives offer the agency a valuable tool in the management of the Fee-For-Service program.
- CMS will not require Primary A/B MAC contractors to offer employment to the staff of fiscal intermediaries and carriers (i.e. “outgoing” contractors).