



CENTER FOR BENEFICIARY CHOICES

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 21, 2006

Memorandum to: All Part D Sponsors (except Employer and PACE Plans)

From: Cynthia Tudor, Ph.D., Director, Medicare Drug Benefit Group

Subject: Important Schedule Changes for Upcoming 2006 and 2007 Drug Pricing Data Submissions

CMS provided three different opportunities to submit 2007 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data to the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder (MPDPF) for testing and plan preview, prior to the submission that will be used for public display on the website. In our review, we have found multiple types of data errors, as well as, discovered that some Part D Sponsors have submitted identical data files to their 2006 submissions. In addition, there are several contracts who have failed to submit any 2007 plan year data.

In order to ensure that Sponsors have ample time to resolve data errors and avoid suppression for the October 12, 2006 launch of the MPDPF web tool, we are now requiring that all Part D Sponsors submit a final set of 2007 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data **on September 27, 2006** (excluding Employer and PACE plans). This additional submission gives Sponsors one last opportunity to perform quality checks on their data, prior to the October 4, 2006 submission that will be utilized for public display. If CMS identifies data errors in the October 4, 2006 submission, there will be no mechanism for plans to correct their files and those plans will have their data suppressed from the MPDPF for two weeks. Attachment A is a revised schedule of important milestones related to the launch of the MPDPF. Attachment B provides technical instructions for the September 27, 2006 submission of the 2007 plan year data.

As a result of this process, the final 2006 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data submission will now take place on September 29, 2006 only for those plans notified as having errors in their September 13, 2006 data. For those plans submitting their 2006 Plan Year pricing and pharmacy network data on September 29, 2006, please submit your files via an e-mail directly to plancompare@destinationrx.com (and copy Thomas.Dudley@cms.hhs.gov) in lieu of uploading via the FTP server. Please submit your files before 5:00 PM PST on September 29th, 2006. **The FTP server will not be available on September 29, 2006.** All other plans will not be able to submit any additional 2006 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data.

We believe this additional opportunity is critical the assuring the accuracy of the data provided to Medicare beneficiaries. We appreciate your continued cooperation in implementing the Medicare drug benefit. Questions regarding this guidance should be directed via email to Alice.Leemartin@cms.hhs.gov and Stacy.Matheny@cms.hhs.gov.

Attachment A – Revised Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder Milestones

| Date | Milestone |
|--|--|
| September 25-26, 2006 | Second preview of 2007 plan year data |
| Wednesday - September 27, 2006 | 2007 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data submission |
| Friday, September 29, 2006 | For only those plans that were notified to have errors in the September 13, 2006 submission, corrected 2006 data files must be submitted. These data will be included in the last refresh of 2006 plan year data on October 9, 2006 on www.medicare.gov . |
| Friday, September 29, 2006 - Tuesday, October 3, 2006 | PDP and MA-PD plans will be notified of any data errors found in their 2007 Plan Year data submitted on September 27, 2006. Plans should resolve these errors for the submission on October 4, 2006. |
| Wednesday, October 4, 2006 | PDP and MA-PD plans submit 2007 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data. These data will be used in the public display on www.Medicare.gov on October 12, 2006. |
| Wednesday, October 11, 2006 | Plans begin submitting bi-weekly (Wednesday) 2007 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data. These data will be posted on www.medicare.gov on October 23, 2006. |
| Thursday, October 12, 2006 - Monday, October 23, 2006 | Plans with data errors from their October 4, 2006 data submission will be suppressed from the launch of the 2007 Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder Tool on www.medicare.gov . If corrected files are submitted on October 11, 2006, suppression will end on October 23, 2006. |
| Thursday, October 12, 2006 | Launch of the 2007 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data in the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder Tool on www.medicare.gov . |

