



CENTER FOR DRUG AND HEALTH PLAN CHOICE

DATE: September 29, 2008

TO: All Current and Prospective Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, PACE, Cost, and Demonstration Organizations

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

SUBJECT: Contract Year 2010 Plan Benefit Package Alpha Testing

We would like to express our appreciation for the comments and suggestions provided as part of the Contract Year (CY) 2009 Plan Benefit Package (PBP) / Summary of Benefits (SB) Lessons Learned held in August and September 2008. CMS has used those comments as well as feedback obtained throughout the course of the year to implement our changes to the PBP/SB software for CY 2010.

The first opportunity for industry participation in the CY 2010 PBP/SB process will be the PBP alpha testing phase. CMS will be conducting alpha testing of the CY 2010 PBP from **Monday, September 29, 2008 through Friday, October 3, 2008**.

For this testing phase, CMS will provide screenshots of the CY 2010 PBP for your review and comment. Please note that the alpha testing phase will not cover the Summary of Benefits (SB). You may download the draft CY 2010 PBP screenshots and a detailed list of current CY 2010 PBP changes at the following test website: http://hpmstest.fu.com/test/pbp2010_alpha/home.html

Please do not insert a "www" in front of this URL.

Once you have reviewed the CY 2010 PBP draft materials, please submit your comments to CMS via the same website address as noted above. You will be asked to identify the PBP Section and your corresponding comment. All comments must be received by **COB on Friday, October 3, 2008**.

In addition to alpha testing, CMS will conduct beta testing of the CY 2010 PBP/SB. Beta testing is tentatively scheduled for February 2009. Further guidance on this beta testing opportunity will be provided at a later time. Your input is critical to the development of the CY 2010 PBP/SB, and we strongly encourage your participation in all phases of the testing process.

If you have any technical issues, please contact the HPMS Help Desk at hpms@cms.hhs.gov or 1-800-220-2028. For other questions, you may contact Sara Walters at sara.walters@cms.hhs.gov or at 410-786-3330. Thank you for your assistance with the alpha testing phase of the CY 2010 PBP/SB.