

Part C&D Weekly Bulletin

For May 9, 2006

Medicare Advantage Audit Guide (1)

Subject: Version 4

File Name: MAGuide.pdf

Summary: The Medicare Advantage Audit Guide, Version 4 has been revised to reflect the changes in the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 and is now posted on HMPS. The guide was effective May 1, 2006. Please direct questions to Christine Perenich at 410-786-2987 or christine.perenich@cms.hhs.gov.

Part D Audit Guide (1)

Subject: Response to Industry Comments

File Name: DGuide.pdf

Summary: The attached document contains a summary of the comments pertaining to the Guide elements and our responses. Comments and policy questions outside the scope of the Guide elements were forwarded to the appropriate CMS personnel for review and consideration.

PBP and BPT Patch Memo (1)

Subject: Software patch releases

File Names: CY2007_BPT-PBP.pdf, BPT Version 2 Release Notes.pdf, PBP2007Enhancement_List_of_Changes_05092006.pdf

Summary: CMS will be releasing software patches to the 2007 PBP and BPT software on HPMS on Tuesday, May 9. These patches correct some identified software bugs as well as make some other minor changes. This memo provides technical instructions to plan users about how to download and apply the patches to their local PBP and BPT software. The attachments describe the specific changes to be found in both software patches. Please note that these patches will NOT overwrite any already completed data entry.

Part D Policy (2):

Subject: Increasing Part D Vaccine Access

File Names: MemoVaccineAccess_05.08.06.pdf

Subject: We have been considering options to improve access to vaccines under the Drug Benefit without requiring up-front beneficiary payment. At this point, in advance of bid submissions, it is important that we outline additional approaches that we urge plans to implement when appropriate to improve access to vaccines.

Subject: Claims Filing Timeframes

File Name: MemoClaimsFilingTimeframes_05.09.06.pdf

Subject: During the initial implementation of Part D, pharmacies often lacked the information necessary to identify the correct primary payer for Part D drugs provided to Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in Part D plans. Consequently, pharmacies often billed the State and other payers instead of a beneficiary's Part D plan.

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Formulary (1)

Subject: Formulary Changes during Plan Year

File Name: NegativeFormularyChangeRequestTemplate_05.05.06.xls,
NegFormChangeRequestTemplateInstructions_05.05.06.pdf, and
QAFormularyChangesDuringPlanYear_05.05.06.pdf

Summary: Beginning May 5, 2006 all negative formulary change requests should be communicated to CMS using the new Negative Formulary Change Request Template. The new template was created in Microsoft Excel to allow for multiple formulary change requests within a single document. The template fields are similar to those found in the previous version

Enrollment (1)

Subject: Additional Payment for June Enrollments after May cutoff

File Name: Enrollments.pdf

Summary: CBC will make an additional “interim” payment for those enrollments received and processed between May 17 and May 24. The rapid processing of enrollments will facilitate the receipt of 4RX data and enrollment materials prior to June 1 for those who enroll close to May 16, helping to eliminate some of the beneficiary coverage issues that might otherwise occur with retroactive enrollment.