

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



CENTER FOR DRUG AND HEALTH PLAN CHOICE

TO: All Part D Plan Sponsors

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

SUBJECT: Negative Formulary Change Request Submission Training Announcement & RxNorm Overview

DATE: December 09, 2008

The December 17, 2008 Part C and D User Group call will be dedicated to providing an overview of the CY 2009 changes to the Negative Formulary Change Request Submission Module as well as an update on RxNorm and how it relates to CY 2010 formulary submissions. Following the presentations, CMS will answer questions submitted to the Part D formularies mailbox (PartDformularies@cms.hhs.gov) prior to the user call as specified below, and then will conduct an open question and answer session.

CMS also will be soliciting comments from formulary contacts of Part D sponsors. We will be asking formulary contacts to present their individual views and opinions on the clarity of instructions and ease of use of the HPMS Formulary Submission Modules. Feedback provided during this meeting will assist CMS as it evaluates the HPMS Formulary Submission process and any related operational issues. Formulary contacts of all Part D plans that participate on this user call may be randomly contacted throughout 2009 for follow-up meetings to solicit additional opinions and/or clarify any issues that may arise from the December 17, 2008 meeting.

The updated technical manual for the HPMS Negative Formulary Change Request Submission Module will be available prior to the user call via the HPMS home page. Once the module is activated for 2009, the manual will also be available under the documentation section of the CY 2009 HPMS Negative Formulary Change Request Submission Module.

Questions for the December 17, 2008 user call should be directed to PartDformularies@cms.hhs.gov. Questions must be received no later than Monday, December 15, 2008 at 12:00pm EST in order to be answered during the December 17th user call and must relate to the topics being discussed. Please place "December 17th User Call Questions" in the subject line of all submitted questions.

The Part C and D User Group call is restricted to registered participants. New participants can register at www.mscginc.com/registration. You must have a valid CMS contract number to register. To receive the call in information and any materials, new participants should register no later than December 12, 2008.