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DATE: February 1, 2010

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

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

SUBJECT: Contract Year 2011 Plan Benefit Package/Summary of Benefits Beta Testing

We would like to express our appreciation for the comments and suggestions provided as part of the Plan Benefit Package (PBP) / Summary of Benefits (SB) Lessons Learned process conducted in July 2009. CMS has used those comments as well as feedback obtained throughout the year to implement changes to the PBP/SB software for Contract Year (CY) 2011.

We are now conducting beta testing to ensure that all aspects of the CY 2011 PBP software work as designed, including the generation of the SB sentences. As with past years, we are requesting your assistance in the final testing of the 2011 PBP/SB. Your input has been critical to the development of the CY 2011 PBP/SB, and we strongly encourage you to participate in this testing process.

Testing will take place from **Monday, February 1, 2010 through Friday, February 12, 2010.** You may download the test CY 2011 PBP software, lists of the CY 2011 detailed PBP/SB changes, pending PBP/SB changes, and known beta software bugs/errors, and the CY 2011 SB Original Medicare sentences, SB crosswalk and sentences, and SB Introduction templates at the following Internet test website:

http://hpmstest.fu.com/test/pbp2011_beta/pbpbeta_start.asp

Please do not insert a "www" in front of this URL, as it will prevent the site from loading.

For technical assistance with downloading and installing the test CY 2011 PBP, please contact the HPMS Help Desk at either 1-800-220-2028 or hpms@cms.hhs.gov.

You must pay close attention to the instructions for downloading this software in order to preserve your production CY 2010 PBP data. It is imperative that you retain your CY 2010 PBP databases if you intend to utilize the year-to-year plan copy functionality included with the CY 2011 PBP software. The year-to-year plan copy functionality will not work if you do not have your CY 2010 PBP database, and CMS will not rebuild your local 2010 database.

Once you have completed testing, you should access the PBP beta website (http://hpmstest.fu.com/test/pbp2011_beta/pbpbeta_start.asp) to document and submit any technical errors. You will be asked to provide the PBP Section/Function, the PBP question, the error message received, whether the error could be replicated, and the order of events leading up to the error. CMS will use this information to correct the errors and make critical changes to the system before deployment.

Thank you for your assistance with the final testing phase of the CY 2011 PBP/SB. For questions regarding this memo, please contact Sara Walters at either 410-786-3330 or Sara.Walters@cms.hhs.gov. We welcome your comments and feedback so that we may continue to improve the PBP/SB.