

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Drug and Health Plan Choice
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-22-25
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



MEDICARE PLAN PAYMENT GROUP

DATE: March 1, 2010

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Prescription Drug Plans, Cost Plans, PACE Organizations and Demonstrations

FROM: Thomas Hutchinson /s/
Director

SUBJECT: Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug System (MARx) March 2010 Payment – INFORMATION

This letter provides information regarding the March 2010 payment scheduled for receipt on March 1, 2010 as well as other payment process reminders.

Extension of Plan Data Due Cut-Off Time

Effective March 12 (the Plan Data Due date for April 2010 payment) and ongoing, the deadline for submitting transactions will be extended from 6:00PM eastern time until 8:00PM eastern time. This will provide our partner organizations in U.S. time zones on the West coast with additional time during regular business hours to submit their data. A revised MARx Monthly Schedule will be posted with the new 8:00PM deadline for each Plan Data Due Date.

Please note that the deadline for submittal of RETRO files is **not** changing and remains noon on the Wednesday before the Plan Data Due date.

Change in FAX Number for New Plan Testing

Effective February 1, 2010, the FAX number for New Plan Testing and Connectivity changed to 410-740-4004. Plans should utilize this new FAX number when submitting information to the MAPD Help Desk.

As a reminder, the MAPD Help Desk monitors new plan contract bids and awards submitted through HPMS and will initiate contact with new plans to assist in all phases of the CMS connectivity process. New plans may review the Data Exchange Preparation and Procedures (DEPP) and Connectivity & Access Configuration Process documents on the MAPD Help website at the following link:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MAPDHelpDesk/PRG/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=-99&sortByDID=1&sortOrder=ascending&itemID=CMS056665&intNumPerPage=10>

Please direct questions concerning this item to the MAPD Help Desk.

Please contact the appropriate Division of Payment Operations (DPO) representative (listing attached) for assistance with other payment or premium related questions. Thank you.

**DIVISION OF PAYMENT OPERATIONS (DPO)
REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS – January 2010**

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