

CENTER FOR MEDICARE

DATE: July 9, 2010

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations

FROM: Danielle R. Moon, J.D., M.P.A., Director
Medicare Drug & Health Plan Contract Administration Group

SUBJECT: Quality Improvement Projects and Chronic Care Improvement Programs

The purpose of this memorandum is to request the submission of the Quality Improvement Projects (QIPs) and Chronic Care Improvement Programs (CCIPs) by **July 30, 2010**. Pursuant to CMS regulations at 42 CFR §422.152, each Medicare Advantage (MA) organization that offers one or more MA plans must have, for each of those plans, an ongoing Quality Improvement program that meets applicable requirements of this section of the CFR. CMS has contracted with Optimal Solutions Group, LLC, to review and evaluate these projects for population specific appropriateness and effectiveness. This feedback allows CMS to evaluate MAO projects, and identify those that show some level of improvement at the MAO contract level. CMS, and its contractor, will provide feedback and technical assistance to MAOs based on the outcomes of the review.

MAOs effective on or before January 1, 2009 are required to submit a QIP and CCIP for any plans in existence on or before that date. New plans in existence as of contract year 2010 are exempt from this July submission. Failure to comply with this request may result in compliance or enforcement action. QIP and CCIP templates and submission instructions can be found at the following site: <http://optimalsolutionsgroup.com/CMS/index.html>.

If there are any questions related to QIP and CCIP submissions, please contact the contractor's technical assistance (TA) support team: maqro@optimalsolutionsgroup.com. TA line at 866-962-6826 between the hours of 8:30am - 5:30pm, EST.

For questions related to this memo, please contact Darlene Anderson at darlene.anderson@cms.hhs.gov.