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DATE: December 12, 2014

TO: All Medicare Part D Sponsors, Industry, and Advocates

FROM: Amy K. Larrick, Acting Director
Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: UPDATE – Presentation of the Medicare Part D Study Results on Access to Preferred Cost Sharing Pharmacies – December 16 & December 17

CMS invites Medicare Part D sponsors, industry, and other interested parties to attend one of two webinars during which CMS will present the results of a study on beneficiary access to pharmacies offering preferred cost sharing.

CMS announced in the CY2015 Call Letter various concerns surrounding beneficiary access to retail network pharmacies offering preferred cost sharing (see <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/MedicareAdvtgSpecRateStats/downloads/Announcement2015.pdf> pages 111-112). The CY2015 Call Letter indicated that to further analyze this issue CMS had awarded a contract to study this topic.

CMS has completed this study and will present its findings to the industry and other interested parties. The results will be presented during two webinars, each with a maximum capacity of 1,000 participants. CMS encourages interested parties to attend one of the two webinars. If the first webinar reaches maximum capacity, we encourage you to attend the second webinar. Each webinar will start with a presentation highlighting the study findings and will conclude with a question and answer session. Each webinar will cover the same material. The slide deck used during the webinars will be made available prior to the webinar on Tuesday, December 16 on the CMS webpage <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/index.html>.

Webinar Session 1:

Title: Preferred Cost Sharing Pharmacy Study Results
When: Tuesday, December 16, 2014
Time: Phone lines open at 2:45 Eastern Time (ET) and webinar begins at 3:00PM and ends at 4:30PM ET
Webinar URL: <https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/pcsp1/>

Dial-in number: 1-877-267-1577
Meeting Number: 998 213 241

Webinar Session 2:

Title: Preferred Cost Sharing Pharmacy Study Results
When: Wednesday, December 17, 2014
Time: Phone lines open at 2:45 Eastern Time (ET) and webinar begins at 3:00PM and ends at 4:30PM ET
Webinar URL: <https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/pcsp2/>
Dial-in number: 1-877-267-1577
Meeting Number: 998 213 241

Please note phone lines will automatically be placed on mute, and the moderator will provide instructions on procedures for asking questions at the start of the Q & A portion of the webinar. Questions may also be submitted via email to PartD_Monitoring@cms.hhs.gov. CMS requests that you attend only one of the webinars to ensure availability for all interested parties.