

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT (MMA) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONFERENCES ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcing Technical Assistance Conferences for the Prescription Drug and Medicare Advantage Industries on the New Opportunities Available Under the MMA

CMS will conduct three conferences for potential Medicare Advantage (MA) and Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) sponsors to learn about requirements for plans under the MMA. The following conferences are planned over the next month:

- January 24-27, 2005 in Baltimore, Maryland
- January 31-February 1, 2005 in San Diego, California; and
- February 3-4, 2005 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Baltimore conference is a four-day technical assistance and guidance conference for the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug industries on the new opportunities available under the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act. The conference will be conducted January 24-27, 2005 at the Radisson Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. The conference will include sessions on the prescription drug and Medicare Advantage applications processes, regional PPOs, and employer group options. The training for potential drug benefit sponsors will be focused on completing the application. CMS strongly encourages the new and transitioning PACE programs, along with those with demonstration projects to attend the Baltimore conference. Information regarding registration, accommodations and other details for this conference can be accessed at <http://cms.c2ti.com>. **Registration closes for this conference on January 14, 2005.**

In addition, conferences have also been scheduled for January 31-February 1 in San Diego and for February 3-4 in New Orleans for the convenience of PDP and MA representatives who are unable to attend the January 24-27, 2005 Industry Conference in Baltimore. These two conferences will have very similar content to the Baltimore conference but will be conducted with simultaneous PDP and MA sessions. Consequently, organizations that wish to hear about both MA and PDP at these conferences should plan to send two staff to cover both sessions. Information regarding registration, accommodations and other details for the San Diego and New Orleans conferences can be accessed at www.aspenxnet.com/partd. **Registration closes for these two conferences on January 21, 2005.**

Please note that the San Diego and New Orleans conferences will cover the same PDP topics presented in Baltimore; however, the field conferences will not cover some MA topics such as MA enrollment or appeals rules that are largely unchanged by the Medicare Modernization Act, but may nonetheless be of interest to potential new MA contractors. These topics will be covered in the Baltimore conference only. Therefore, CMS strongly encourages new MA organizations to attend the Baltimore conference.

Future training events will include a Bidding Training Conference planned for March 22-24, 2005 in the Baltimore/Washington area. Additional information on this conference, as well as other training events, will be posted to this website as soon as available.